

# Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE



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Thursday, October 1st 2015

## Station revamp in police review

Met chiefs say buildings shake-up will lead to improved policing

BY JACK DIXON  
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MET chiefs are planning a shake-up of police buildings in Hammersmith and Fulham that could pave the way for state-of-the-art new facilities and improvements to frontline policing.

The force is poised to sell off its building on Fulham Road in order to pay for a revamp of Hammersmith Police Station, which is set to become the borough's sole remaining full-time facility.

The plans emerged last week as

annual neighbourhood watch figures revealed Shepherd's Bush Green to be the borough's burglary hot spot and community leaders expressed concern about proposals for a reduction in the number of police community support officers across London.

MOPAC – the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime – is planning to sell off its station in Fulham as part of a City Hall scheme to provide a permanent home for the Fulham Boys School, although a front counter service will be retained at the site.

It is understood that the sale will pay for a significant investment programme at Hammersmith Police

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■ **ON TARGET:** Several sporting stars from Shepherd's Bush enjoyed an evening in the limelight during an awards night celebrating the borough's best athletes. The Community Sports Awards, held at the Hammersmith Academy last week, brought together top sporting talent, from table tennis to taekwondo. Former world in-line skating champion Jenna Downing (pictured, left) gave an inspirational talk before dishing out the prizes, which recognised clubs, volunteers and special projects designed to promote sport in the borough. Caroline Quist (right), from the Phoenix Flyers Trampoline Club, was nominated in three categories and presented with the Outstanding Contribution award.

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over carnival future



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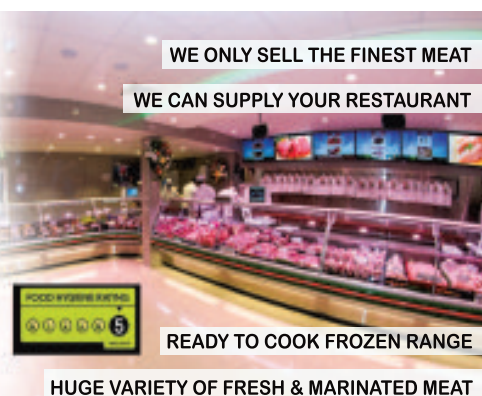
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## NEW MOVE TO ENSURE HIGHEST STANDARDS AT REGENERATION SITE

# Common objective can be better by design

THE Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation has appointed a team of design experts to ensure all new developments on the largest regeneration site in London meet the very highest of design standards.

A High Speed 2 and Crossrail interchange is due to be built at Old Oak Common in West London by 2026, and it will transform one of the most inaccessible parts of the capital into a well-connected, world-class transport hub, handling 250,000 passengers a day.

To maximise this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, launched the Development Corporation in April to drive forward future regeneration and deliver up to 25,500 homes and 65,000 jobs. It will look to create the standard-bearer for new sustainable neighbourhoods, delivering housing and commercial development, creating opportunities for local people and driving innovation and growth in London and the UK.

Following a competitive tender process, the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation selected Design Council Cabi to set up and



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S  
OFFICE



■ An impression of Old Oak Common in 2043, taken from Old Oak: A Vision for the Future, published by the Greater London Authority.

manage a PLACE (planning, landscape, architecture, conservation and engineering) review group.

This review group is tasked with improving the quality of development proposals and embedding PLACE-making into planning policy.

Design Council Cabi's network of 250 built environment professionals will provide the development corporation with access to a wide

range of leading expert professionals across the PLACE themes and beyond. The PLACE review group will operate according to the recommendations set out in the Government-commissioned Farrell Review of architecture and the built environment.

London's Deputy Mayor for Planning and Chairman of the OPDC Board, Sir Edward Lister, said: "The scale of the opportunity at Old

Oak and Park Royal is enormous. Nowhere else in London has the potential to deliver so many new homes and jobs and it is vital that we deliver a new high-quality piece of the capital for the benefit of the area and the communities that surround it. This new group will help to ensure that our ambitions to secure world class architecture and exemplar place-making are realised."

Clare Devine, Executive Director of Architecture, Built Environment and Design at Design Council, said: "We are delighted to announce Design Council Cabi's appointment to set up and manage a PLACE Review Group for the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation. This group will bring together an unprecedented breadth of expertise to support the OPDC in realising the potential of the most significant regeneration project in the UK. Specialists in public health, inclusion, SMART and culture will join experts in planning, built environment, and design. Together they will provide strategic advice to drive design excellence across all aspects of Old Oak and Park Royal to deliver social, economic and environmental benefit to enhance the lives of existing and future generations in London."



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# Boys' school moves in as Met takes a fresh look at policing

FROM PAGE 1

Station, in Shepherd's Bush Road, as well as additional facilities to "improve officer performance and front-line policing".

Chief Superintendent Gideon Springer, borough commander for Hammersmith and Fulham, said the new plans were designed to make the most efficient use of the Met's estate.

He said: "Hammersmith Police Station, in the centre of the borough, is an important site for us, but its current configuration fails to provide a modern policing facility.

"We have wasted space and cannot, as it stands, achieve our ambitions to operate in a digitally enabled 21st century fashion.

"We would therefore like to make major improvements to the existing building to deliver new state-of-the-art facilities, including a new 30-cell custody suite as well as improved and expanded stables that would maintain the popular presence of mounted police in the Hammersmith area."

He added that "modernising" the station would actually reduce the running costs of the Met's estate, allowing for a "more flexible" workspace and demonstrating a "long-term commitment to a substantial physical presence in the borough".

Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, said only 35 per cent of the Fulham Police Station was currently in use and that it would make an "ideal" home for the Boys School, while helping to meet the capital-wide demand for school places.

The new approach means the Hammersmith station will continue to operate a front desk service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It is not yet clear whether there will be any changes to the number of officers provided in the borough, with Met management board members due to consider proposals for a reduction in police community sup-



■ **EYES ON THE PRIZE:** Members from more than 50 neighbourhood watch groups across Hammersmith and Fulham came together to discuss crime issues in the borough. The Neighbourhood Watch Association's annual general meeting heard that theft remains the most common offence, although burglary rates are actually on the decline. Chairman David Millar (right) said the network now covers 200 streets across the borough. Mr Millar presented the association's Douglas Hurd Cup to Pat Cosgrave (left) from Hammersmith and Fulham Council's community safety unit for his "tireless" work in developing local neighbourhood watch projects.

port officers at a meeting this week.

Hammersmith and Fulham's network of neighbourhood watch groups met recently to discuss crime, as annual figures showed the Shepherd's Bush Green ward, which includes the Westfield shopping centre, to be the borough's shoplifting hotspot.

Asked about the potential reduction in the number of PCSOs in Hammersmith and Fulham, Neighbourhood Watch Association chairman David Millar said: "All attending the meeting felt this was a

potentially worrying situation."

Commander Lucy D'Orsi, who is leading the neighbourhood policing project, said: "Like local communities we very much value PCSOs and their role in community engagement – they have been an integral part of the 'Safer Neighbourhoods' model from the start.

"However, the financial pressures we are facing mean that we have a duty to consider all options available in order to meet those challenges and to ensure we deliver a quality polic-

ing service to London's communities."

While theft remains the most common offence in Hammersmith and Fulham – accounting for almost half of all recorded crime in the borough – the figures show an overall reduction in the burglary rate for the fifth consecutive year.

The number of reported noise complaints and car thefts rose over the last year, but incidents of anti-social behaviour fell by 15 per cent.

Overall, there was a 6.5 per cent increase in crime across the borough, with the number of offences up from 18,994 to 20,220.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council currently funds a total of 44 police officers, working closely with neighbourhood watch schemes, residents' associations and schools, while also responding to emergencies and driving down crime.

Announcing the addition of eight new officers in July, Councillor Sue Fennimore, the council's cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "The new council-funded officers are working with residents to take on the issues that affect them most and are a visible presence on our streets to deter crime."

Maya Donelan, secretary of the Fulham Society, said she was shocked by the sudden announcement.

"My concern is that the people of Fulham have not been told anything about it," she said. "There has been huge triumphalism that the school is coming in but nobody told us that our police station was going.

"I sympathise with the police because they are facing enormous cuts but I do have major concerns about accessibility. Hammersmith and Fulham is a long, thin borough and it is not easy for everyone to get to the other station. The whole of the Sands End area is very cut off and will take a long time on the bus."

## Call to support air pollution task force

COMMUNITY members have been urged to join a task force set up to investigate air pollution in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Councillors set up the air quality commission in July following the publication of shock figures showing that pollution kills more than 200 people in the borough each year.

The commission will engage with experts and residents over a period of six months before making recommendations for the council's action plan next year.

Residents are now being encouraged to have their say by joining the panel to investigate causes, risks and possible solutions to the problem.

Rosemary Pettit, who will chair the commission, said: "The commission will be looking not only at the available data but also at what actions the council, business and residents can take to clean up our air."

Research by King's College London found that almost one in seven deaths in the borough – 15 per cent – is caused by air pollution. The proportion of deaths in Hammersmith and Fulham attributed to poor air quality is among the highest in London.

## Low birth rates

WOMEN in Hammersmith and Fulham are having fewer children than other parts of London, new research has revealed.

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics last week suggest the borough is among the capital's least fertile locations. On average, 1.37 children are born for every woman of child-bearing age in the borough – one of the lowest rates in London.

The neighbouring borough of Kensington and Chelsea recorded a rate of 1.31 and in Westminster the rate was as low as 1.20. London was found to have the lowest overall fertility rates of any region but the highest for women over the age of 45.

## Playground revamp

A **RUNDOWN** playground has been reopened to the public following a long-awaited revamp.

The dilapidated court – on the Bayonne Estate in Fulham – was brought back to life with a range of new facilities and games equipment. Brand new features include 'street snooker' and 'street darts', as well as table tennis and outdoor gym equipment.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council funded the renovation.

# Academy greets new intake

A SHEPHERD'S BUSH school has opened its doors to dozens of new students for the first time.

The Ark Burlington Danes Academy marked the start of the school year by welcoming two brand new reception classes.

The White City school officially became an 'all-through' academy on the first day of term (September 14), with teaching now provided for children aged between three and 11.

Pupils will have the chance to continue their education at Ark Burlington Danes once they reach secondary school age. A total of 45 four-year-olds began their school lives with the academy earlier this month, marking the realisation of a long-term vision to create an 'all-through' teaching facility in Shepherd's Bush.

Lisa Crispin, the primary school's principal, said the new intake had made a flying start, enjoying lessons in phonics and counting and exploring the acad-



■ **GOING PLACES:** Ark Burlington Danes principal Lisa Crispin welcomes new pupils to the primary academy.

emy's dedicated outdoor space.

"All the planning and preparation has finally come to fruition and I am delighted to welcome our first reception classes to Ark Burlington Danes Primary Academy," she said.

"The children look wonderful in their new uniform and they have quickly settled into their new school. I would like to thank all the staff at both the primary

and secondary schools for their hard work and dedication to make the 'all-through' academy a success and for providing outstanding educational experiences for our students."

Burlington Danes, which currently holds Ofsted's gold-standard 'outstanding' rating, celebrated another strong set of results in August, with almost two thirds of GCSE students achieving five A\*-Cs including English and Maths.

The academy will function as a "big sister" to the new primary school in the years ahead, sharing some of the facilities at its site in Wood Lane.

Academy principal Michael Ribton added: "We are pleased and proud to welcome the new primary school children into the Ark Burlington Danes family.

"The all-through academy will enable us to deliver student-centred learning opportunities for children throughout their school career and will ensure smooth transitions between each key stage."

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# A champion chippie

THE Great British Mayfair Fish & Chips at County Hall has been named as one of the UK's top 10 fledgling fish and chip shops as part of the 2016 National Fish & Chip Awards.

The Great British Mayfair Fish & Chips will now 'fry' for glory against fellow fish and chip contenders from all over the UK in the race to bag the Best Newcomer Award.

Over the coming weeks, the shortlisted business will be subjected to mystery judging evaluations including an assessment of product quality and customer service levels.

This next stage of the competi-

tion will whittle down the top 10 shops to establish the UK top 3 finalists who will compete for the top accolade at the 2016 awards ceremony.

Celebrating new entrants to the industry, the Best Newcomer Award is open to independent fish and chip businesses that have been operating since no earlier than 1 October 2013 and recognises those that are excelling in upholding the high standards of the trade.

Paul Williams, Chief Executive of sponsors Seafish, said: "The aim of the National Fish & Chip Awards has always been to showcase the very best fish and

chip businesses and individuals in the UK, while setting incredibly high standards for the industry to aspire to."

Culminating in an awards ceremony at The Lancaster London Hotel on 20 January 2016, The National Fish & Chip Awards are recognised as one of the most prominent and respected seafood industry events in the UK.

Widely considered as the 'Oscars' of the fish frying industry, they celebrate the great British tradition of fish and chips, recognising the best talent, quality and choice offered by fish and chip businesses.

## Celebrities at cross purposes

PETER Dale – the football pundit known as 'Tubes' – has 'adopted' a London bridge in a bid to encourage people to sign up for Diabetes UK's 10-mile London Bridges walking challenge which will take place on 11 October.

Dale is backing Chelsea Bridge and says: "I love bridges and my favourite is London's finest bridge – Chelsea. The bridge named after the champions stands as a great reminder of all that's awesome about our mega city."

In Hammersmith & Fulham more than 7,000 residents are currently diagnosed with diabetes and many more are at

risk. A further 12 celebrities have agreed to promote other London Bridges along the walk route including Frank Skinner who favours Lambeth Bridge, Sir Roger Moore who has adopted Vauxhall Bridge and Greg Rusedski who has chosen Battersea.

Meanwhile, the South Bank's artistic and entertainment connections have drawn the backing of Sandi Toksvig, Adrian Lester, Philippa Gregory, Michael Frayn and Phillip Schofield, while London Bridge is backed by chef Cyrus Todiwala for its Borough Market connections.

Political pundit Iain Dale is

backing Westminster, Sky News's Steve Dixon enjoys the views from Millennium Bridge, walking enthusiast Julia Bradbury is backing Albert Bridge, and Joe Pasquale – who has run the London Marathon for Diabetes UK – is backing Tower Bridge.

These make up the 13 bridges that will be crossed by everyone taking part in the charity's London Bridges Challenge which runs from Battersea to Tower Bridge. All the money raised by the event will help Diabetes UK. To sign up for the challenge event, visit [diabetes.org.uk/bridgeschallenge](http://diabetes.org.uk/bridgeschallenge) or call 0345 123 2399.



■ BIG-HEARTED staff, customers and passers-by helped a Pimlico hairdresser raise valuable funds for the Macmillan nurses charity last week. Kevin Hopkins, director of Hopkins Hairdressing in Warwick Way, reported a fundraising total of £858.45 – the proceeds from a coffee morning, one of thousands held across the country. Mr Hopkins said: "We had an amazing day with the Macmillan coffee morning and it was perfect running it all day with my salon's opening hours. I had emailed out the invite to all my clients, posted on Twitter and Facebook and then having our coffee and cakes outside the salon was a real success. With the help of my friend Martin Buck running the show outside and encouraging passers-by to stop and be involved, the atmosphere was electric! An initial stranger who passed by and made a donation came back an hour or two later with cakes and savouries he had gone home to make and helped us for the rest of the day. Thank you to Philip Fotherington-Matt for helping us. Magda, a friend and teacher at Newton Prep, arrived with a wonderful cake along with clients who had travelled to be there and make donations. We were completely blown away by Pimlico's generosity and selflessness. Thanks to the community, local shops, my clients and everyone who donated. A huge thank-you."



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# Tube upgrade signals end of line for Crossrail 2 station, claim opponents

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff.baker@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign has welcomed the announcement by Transport for London to upgrade the signalling on the District and Circle lines to increase capacity by 27,000 passengers per hour – and says the improvements provide further evidence that Crossrail 2 is not needed in Chelsea.

Capacity on the District and Circle lines will be increased by between 30 and 40 per cent as a result of increasing the frequency and number of trains, ending overcrowding on these two important tube lines for Chelsea and South Kensington. This will increase capacity by 27,000 passengers per hour on the two lines or 486,000 per 18-hour day.

Chris Lenon, Chairman of the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign, commented: “These improvements further undermine the case for a Crossrail station on the King’s Road. Kensington and Chelsea council have not publicised this announcement made on 3 August. They haven’t welcomed it despite the obvious benefits for residents – why?”

“Is it because this fundamentally undermines any transport case for the Crossrail station they have been campaigning for, but which local people do not need and do not want?”

“Sloane Square currently has a passenger footfall of 52,000 people per weekday. When South Kensington’s numbers are added to this the increase in capacity will be equivalent to the passenger numbers that the council are claiming for the King’s Road station. Both tube stations will be minutes away from the Victoria Crossrail 2 station

and its interchanges.”

The No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign has also called on the council to lobby TfL to provide step-free access at both Sloane Square and South Kensington underground stations.

In addition, they have written to the nine ward councillors for Royal Hospital, Chelsea Riverside and Stanley wards, asking them to discuss the proposal with local residents and declare whether they support the proposed King’s Road station or oppose it.

Style icons Nancy Dell’Olio and Nicky Haslam have weighed into the battle against plans for a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea, as they played a starring role at a glitzy cabaret-cum-fundraiser for the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign on the King’s Road.

Dell’Olio and Haslam have now joined a swathe of local celebrities in opposing the current proposals, saying a massive new high-capacity railway station will destroy Chelsea’s unique style and charm.

Italian-British lawyer Nancy Dell’Olio, who came to public fame as the girlfriend of former England football manager Sven Goran Eriksson, told the audience: “Chelsea is one of London’s gems. It’s stylish, it’s unique – we cannot allow it to be ruined by a ghastly Crossrail station that will dwarf all around it. I’ve spent many a day strolling the fabulous King’s Road. There really is nothing like it. Nobody wants this station, nobody wants just another cloned High Street. We love the King’s Road how it is – for the shopping, for the style, for its charm.”

Nicky Haslam, the English interior designer, socialite and founder of the London-based interior design firm NH Design Inc, which is headquartered in Chelsea, joined Dell’Olio on stage. He said: “Chelsea is renowned the world over as being a last remaining bastion of a London unlike any other, where the traditional, the intimate and the contemporary meet in a largely untouched and homogenous setting.

“Does that really need to be swept away, indeed willfully destroyed, by this monstrous Crossrail station plan? To say nothing of the inevitable ten years of dirt, demolition and noise its construction will entail, bringing chaos to this unique area which is so cherished by residents, small businesses, church-goers and tourists alike.”

The event at The Pheasantry, which is one of 240 listed buildings on the proposed route, was attended by other celebrity supporters, including pasta sauce tycoon and television personality Loyd Grossman.

Two children of the makers of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* hosted the cabaret. Melinda Hughes, daughter of film director Ken Hughes, and Miss Hope Springs, played by Ty Jeffries, the son of Lionel Jeffries, who played Dick van Dyke’s father in the hit 1968 film, joined Dell’Olio, Haslam and Grossman for a night of song, dance and humour to help publicise their campaign.

The campaign to stop a Crossrail 2 station being built in Chelsea has picked up pace in recent weeks, as celebrities Felicity Kendal, Trevor Eve, Cherie Lunghi and Sir Alan Parker joined 3,000 local residents and business owners in calling for the plans to be ditched. The group, No Crossrail in Chelsea, opposes plans for a Crossrail 2 diversion through Chelsea and wants the route from



CRITIC: Nancy Dell’Olio.



CRITIC: Designer Nicky Haslam.

Victoria to Clapham Junction to be direct.

Crossrail stations also have retail, office development and restaurants. Opponents claim such a station would seriously damage the streetscape of Chelsea, ruining the unique charm of the King’s Road and its independent businesses, creating yet another cloned High Street and a disruptive nighttime economy.

Chairman of the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign, local resident Chris Lenon, said: “Our campaign is sending a very simple and clear message to the local council, to the Mayor of London, Transport for London and Crossrail 2. Chelsea’s residents and businesses are not going to go down without a fight. We do not want and do not need a Crossrail station here.

“Thanks to last night’s fundraiser and the grassroots support we have attracted, we now have a significant war chest to fight these proposals.”

A final consultation of local residents, businesses and stakeholders is due to take place in October. A decision on the final route of

Crossrail 2 is due to be made following this study.

If given the go-ahead, station construction would take eight years, during which the King’s Road will be closed for five years, causing traffic congestion on Chelsea Embankment, Fulham Road, the roads between and further north.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has suggested the concerns of Chelsea residents may be listened to. He wrote: “There has not been a definite decision taken on any Crossrail 2 station location, and nor will there be until there is a full consultation with the public.”

## Axe royal funding: Labour

THE Kensington group of the Labour Party has started a campaign to axe all public funding of the Royal Family – and will be pushing the plan at the Party’s Conference in Brighton this week, writes Geoff Baker.

The proposal to cut more than £300 million in taxpayers’ funding of the monarchy came from the architect of Kensington Labour’s General Election campaign, Kensington and Chelsea Councillor Emma Dent Coad.

The local Labour group has adopted “Stop Taxpayer Funding of the Monarchy” as its official policy.

“The policy demands an end to the taxpayers’ subsidy of a family with several members residing in Kensington,” said a spokesman.

Councillor Dent Coad is to speak on the proposal at the Labour Conference, at a fringe meeting organised by the anti-Royalty group, Republic.

## An alternative view

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council is a strong supporter of Crossrail 2. Here’s what the authority says...

**High speed London high speed Britain** – a Crossrail 2 station on the King’s Road would deliver our residents to Clapham Junction in approximately three minutes, connecting them to Gatwick and the south of England. Tottenham Court Road would be approximately six minutes away. From there, Canary Wharf will be only 12 minutes away; Heathrow just 30 minutes; HS1 and HS2 would both be under ten minutes away, at the new Euston St Pancras station.

**Transforming public transport** – not only would Crossrail 2 be great news for long distance travellers, it would make a massive difference to everyday travel too. Over half of the borough’s residents do not have a car, very often because they cannot afford one. This new station would bring 5,000 more Chelsea homes within a ten-minute walk of an underground station for the first time. Those currently beyond Beaufort Street are very poorly served by public transport – even Oakley Street is more than ten minutes from Sloane Square. A Crossrail 2 station would connect those residents to the tube, to the huge number of mainline services at Clapham Junction and, as mentioned above, it would also connect them with Crossrail 1.

**Accessibility** – the proposed Crossrail 2 station at King’s Road would be completely step-free from the street to the platforms. This isn’t yet the case at Sloane Square or at South Kensington.

**Congestion** – right now, too much of Chelsea is not well served by public transport. For many Chelsea residents, Sloane Square is too far away. Local buses can be packed, and they can also be painfully slow because of our often congested roads. We believe a modern, efficient rail service in the heart of Chelsea will tempt many from their cars.

**Station size** Kensington and Chelsea would remain the planning authority for the station development and the station would therefore have to be in keeping with the traditional scale and character of this part of the King’s Road.

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## Brewster's brilliant best showcased

AMERICAN super-stylist turned designer Kithe Brewster presented an exclusive runway show at The Waldorf Hilton in Covent Garden as part of London Fashion Week, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Brewster, known for his incredible style, is credited for helping to make Julianne Moore a fashion icon. The list of celebrities Brewster has worked with as a stylist reads like a who's who in Hollywood and music: Halle Berry, Heidi Klum, Diane Lane, Beyoncé, Natalie Portman and Iman to name a few.

Three years ago he walked away from his illustrious career and began designing. In his seventh season Kithe has carved out a niche that is catching on rapidly. He has become renowned for his incredible draping and his multifunctional designs.

Kithe lived in London for years, working as a fashion director, editor and stylist. It's in London that he got his start in music styling and so to be a part of London Fashion Week is like a homecoming for the artist.

His 2015 collection showcases his impeccable techniques and shows why *Zink* magazine calls Brewster a "thoroughly modern whiz kid with virtuoso cutting skills!" The half-hour runway show was filled with glorious shapes and strong forms that are now a mark of his designs – set to a background of jazzed up show tunes and 1920s themes that fitted perfectly into the newly renovated Adelphi Suite of the Waldorf Hilton.



■ **RUNWAY STYLES:** Fashions by Kithe Brewster on show at London's Waldorf Hilton.

# Mayor urges youngsters to join London building boom

BY LWN REPORTER  
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Mayor of London is urging young people to choose a career in construction after new research showed London building firms needed more skilled workers.

Boris Johnson has joined forces with Lloyds Banking Group to launch the £1 million Construction Skills fund to help provide the capital's homebuilders with the improved training they say the industry needs.

The bank's research released this week reveals that 87 per cent of housebuilders in the UK plan to increase the size of their workforce over the next year, with almost a third planning to use apprentices to grow their businesses in the next five years.

The Construction Skills fund, launched with Lloyds last Thursday as part of its Helping Britain Prosper Plan, will aim to address some of the acute skills challenges in London's construction sector by boosting the training of skilled apprentices. These apprentices will play an integral role in helping speed up house building in London as part of £95.7 billion worth of construction projects planned across the capital and the South East up until 2017, requiring a 20 per cent increase in skilled workers.



■ **BUILDING CONFIDENCE:** New apprentices are sought by building firms.

Since 2010, the construction sector has employed over 5,500 apprentices in London, with Crossrail and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park taking on a large number. The Mayor aims to significantly increase these numbers through his Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, which will create the UK's largest construction site in north-west London, with the ambition to have more apprentices than any other site in Europe.

Over the next 30 years an army of apprentice bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, plasterers, carpenters, scaffolders, site managers and project

managers are expected to play an integral part in building 25,500 homes and transport infrastructure in the only site where HS2 meets Crossrail.

As London pushes for greater devolved powers, the Mayor is set to take over commissioning for skills and is working with the Government to ensure that businesses are able to fill the vacancies that will help the city to grow.

The Mayor said: "With some of the biggest infrastructure projects in the world taking place in the capital, and thousands of new homes being built, helping young people into

construction apprenticeships has never been more important. We need to do everything in our power to help more people access construction opportunities and I am working hard with the Government to make sure that London's skills system works better and harder for the capital."

Leigh Ann Smith, a 19-year-old bricklayer working on Chobham Manor at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, said: "Having received my qualification yesterday, I can now say that after two and a half years on some great sites, I am a qualified bricklayer."

"In that time, I have learnt a unique set of skills that will set me up for life, I've met some great people, I've built up my confidence and I've been earning money whilst getting a qualification that is sought after all over London."

The announcement comes at a time when many house builders report difficulties recruiting qualified candidates for a range of skilled construction jobs.

Electricians are in the shortest supply, according to over a third of the house builders in Lloyds Bank's survey.

Many also reported difficulties recruiting site managers, project managers, plumbers, carpenters, bricklayers, and kitchen fitters.

## Brigade: boozing a recipe for disaster

FIREFIGHTERS are urging Rugby World Cup fans to kick their drunken cooking into touch and try a takeaway instead of risking a kitchen fire after too many pints.

The London Fire Brigade has issued the warning following fears of fires being started by hungry rugby fans who are too drunk to cook.

"With the vast majority of games kicking off at 8pm fire chiefs are concerned about the knock-on effect of cooking late at night after a boozy evening in the pub," said the brigade.

"Last year there were around seven fires a day caused by cooking, with nearly 60 per cent of all household fires starting in the kitchen. Our drinking stats show that two fires a day happen after Londoners have been drinking, one in four people who die in a fire has alcohol in their system, three quarters of alcohol related fires are caused by cooking under the influence and over half of these fires happen because someone has fallen asleep."

London Fire Brigade Director of Operations Dave Brown said: "There will be a scrum at the bar as Londoners of all nations go straight from work to the pub to watch the Rugby World Cup. Our research shows cooking after having one too many plays a massive part in house fires and sadly, one in every four fire deaths involves alcohol."

"If people cook under the influence of alcohol they could be putting themselves and the people they love in danger. Try a takeaway instead and avoid our chariots being sent to a dangerous cooking fire."

## Do we care they think we're rude?

MAYBE it's because we're Londoners that millions of Brits hate us for being so rude.

A new survey of what the rest of Britain loves and hates about the capital has revealed that people living elsewhere in the UK – especially the Scots – rate Londoners as being far too bad-mannered.

When asked what they most disliked about London, almost a quarter of Brits said Londoners needed a lesson in manners.

But most Brits said what they hated about the capital was the soaring price of coming here, with 38 per cent saying the cost of public transport, eating out and the general cost of London living was their biggest gripe.

In the research, conducted by Unit One Architects, bad manners attracted 24 per cent of the total votes – with 36 per cent of Scottish participants pegging rudeness to be the thing they dislike most about London.

Queues and public transport were also popular answers, coming in neck and neck with around 10 per cent of the votes apiece.

But it seems not all love for London is lost – with diversity, shopping and entertainment among the main reasons people continue to swarm to the capital.



# Make our capital car-free for a day

ACROSS the world, major cities are taking innovative and exciting steps to deal with pollution.

A few days ago Paris celebrated its streets with a car-free day, showing what is possible with imagination and political will. Other cities, including New York, Bogotá and Jakarta, have similar celebrations where the streets are opened for people to enjoy, and to show that city centres can be healthier, more enjoyable places to be.

London needs a radical rethink of the way it manages its streets, and initiatives like this would be an excellent start. We cannot continue with an approach that leaves our city with such heavily polluted air and some of the worst congestion levels in Europe.

The Mayor, and whoever replaces him, should show leadership. As well as temporary celebrations, we need to see some permanent changes, such as pedestrianising Oxford Street and at the same time making our neighbourhoods great places to walk in. We hope that our city's leaders champion this.

At the same time, a think-tank has warned that the NHS is suffering its "hardest decade ever". As our lives become more inactive, we are growing unhealthier and continuing to place a strain on our health service. The focus needs to be on prevention.

An easy solution to our sedentary lifestyle is getting more people walking yet the recent National Travel Survey results revealed that over one in five people hadn't walked for 20 minutes at all within the last year. Walking is free, accessible to all and can be easily slotted into everyday life. It is good for our mental health and can prevent chronic illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes.

The Government Spending Review needs to focus on prevention measures as well as the immediate NHS needs.

Most of us say we'd walk more if it was safer, more attractive or more convenient. We need to make sure it is so that more people start walking and feeling the lifelong physical, social, mental and practical benefits it brings.

Jack Skillen  
London Director, Living Streets, London, E1 7SA



CONGESTION: Consider a city free of traffic for one day.

## Regeneration implications

WHILE I agree with Cllr Paget Brown's concerns about "self-styled tribunes of the people" (September 24), he is not being completely open about the potential "social cleansing" of parts of North Kensington.

He correctly asserts that all council tenants with a secure tenancy can expect to be rehoused in a superb new home on the same terms as their old flat when their estate is regenerated. Indeed, this has already happened at the Silchester Garages development by Peabody. The only change to the terms of those tenants is that their council tax bill has soared because new flats are taxed at the current and not the historic assessment.

However, demolition and regeneration of council estates affects many other residents as well. Leaseholders may – and I stress "may" – be able to buy a new flat in the redeveloped estate with the assistance of council-funded shared equity, since the new flat will cost a lot more than the price they will receive for their existing home.

However, this shared equity will have to be repaid when the leaseholder sells the flat or dies. Many of these leaseholders are older people who bought their homes in good faith under Mrs Thatcher's original right-to-buy scheme. At that time they were assured that they would be able to leave their flat to their children and that this was one of the benefits of the evolving "property owning democracy".

Sadly, they will not now be able to leave their home to their children unless those children have enough money to buy out the council's shared equity contribution.

There are other long-term residents who will also be affected. Many leasehold flats

have been sold on and have become buy-to-let dwellings. A lot of people who rent these flats from the new leaseholder are also long-term residents of the estate and make a significant contribution to their local community.

However, there is no prospect at the moment for them to remain within that community. Labour councillors will be making the case for their situation in the coming months.

Some of these buy-to-let flats are also used by the council as temporary accommodation for homeless households. Again, there is no information about what will happen to these families once their homes are demolished.

Finally, the council has given no commitment yet as to whether all the existing units built for social rent will be replaced on a like-for-like basis, including all the leasehold units. If this does not happen, then the number of council tenants will inevitably reduce.

The regenerated estates will also include new homes to be sold on the open market or rented out to people earning up to £85,000 pa. Consequently, by developing these "mixed communities", the nature of the estates will fundamentally change as well. We would like to hear Cllr Paget-Brown's justification for his claim that this does not equate to a form of "social cleansing".

Cllr Judith Blakeman  
Kensington and Chelsea Labour housing spokesperson

## Let's bake for the children

APPEARING on last year's *Great British Bake Off* changed my life. Baking is my passion and today I am challenging budding bakers across the country to get baking for a great cause, Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

The charity is encouraging bakers to hold a bake sale to raise vital dough for Bake it Better Week (19-25 October). The money raised will make a huge difference to young patients and families from across the UK, helping to give some of the sickest children the best chance for life.  
Chetna Makan



GOOD CAUSE: Baker Chetna Makan makes an appeal.

# Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

London News <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
Sainsbury's Store	99 Wilton Road	Pimlico	SW1V 1DT
Co-op	104-105 Berwick Street	Soho	W1F 0QS
Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	London	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goudge Street	London	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
Co-op	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
Co-op	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
Sainsbury's Store	158a Cromwell Road	Kensington	SW7 4EJ
Tesco Metro	146-148 High Street	Kensington	W8 6SU
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove	London	W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 8PB
Kensington Central Library	Philmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

Fulham Chronicle <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS</small> pick up points			
Sainsbury's Store	51 Townsmead Road	Fulham	SW6 2SY
Sainsbury's Store	Fulham Broadway Retail Centre	Fulham	SW6 1BW
Co-op	254 North End Road	London	SW6 1NJ
Co-op	314 Lillie Road	Fulham	SW6 7PS
Co-op	60 Parsons Green Lane	Fulham	SW6 4HU
Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS</small> pick up points			
Sainsbury's Store	2-3 Kings Mall	Kings Mall	W6 0PZ
Tesco Super Store	180 Shepherds Bush Road	London	W6 7NL
Marketing Dept Fulham & Hammersmith Council	King Street	London	W6 9JU
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS</small> pick up points			
WM Morrisons	114-116 Shepherds Bush Centre	Shepherds Bush	W12 8PP



# Foodbank for dads

BRITAIN'S first foodbank for fathers will open in Kensington High Street on Friday – to help the many local dads who are going hungry every week in order to feed their children.

The foodbank is being launched by the Dads House charity, which is also offering a community base and social centre for fathers who are struggling to bring up a family on their own.

"There is a crying need for this new project, many fathers are going hungry once or twice a week so that they can give what little food they have to their kids," said Dads House chief executive Billy McGranaghan.

"A lot of dads are struggling to make do and many of them find that they have no cash to provide meals for their children, they need help."

Dads House says there are 584 male lone parent households in Kensington and Chelsea, 503 in Westminster, 157 in Hammersmith and Fulham and 16,473 across London. In addition, there are more than 180,000 lonely fathers in the capital who are living without their children.

The foodbank will open at Kensington United Reform Church, at Allen Street and Kensington High Street, from 6.0-7.30 pm on Friday October 1st and every Friday thereafter. Donations of food from resi-

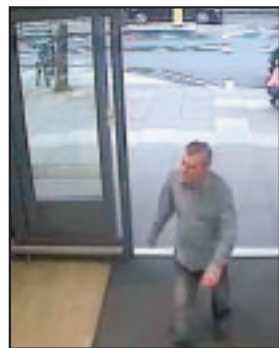
dents are welcome.

Besides providing non-perishable food, tea, coffee and other essentials including shampoo and toothpaste, Dads House will also provide a base where fathers can share problems, get free legal advice, join football teams and join chess games with their children and get a free Sunday lunch.

"Although this new service is aimed at single fathers, obviously we wouldn't turn away any single mums, we are here to help everyone," said Mr McGranaghan.

For more information on Dads House and the help they offer single fathers go to [www.dadshouse.org.uk](http://www.dadshouse.org.uk)

# Police hunt mystery kisser



DETECTIVES in Kensington and Chelsea have released a new CCTV image of a man who they are still seeking in connection with a frightening assault on an elderly woman.

On Sunday, 28 June at 6pm the 91-year-old woman was shopping inside Waitrose on Notting Hill Gate.

As she made her way to leave the store, the suspect approached her and gripped her around the waist. He then went on to kiss her a number of times on her cheek. The man ran off towards Holland Park. The suspect is described as

white, of medium build and approximately 40 to 50 years old. At the time of the incident he was wearing a chequered shirt and blue jeans.

Detective Constable Grant McPherson from Kensington and Chelsea CID said: "The suspect's bizarre behaviour left an elderly woman frightened and bewildered and I urge anyone who may recognise him to contact the police."

Anyone who has any information should contact DC Grant McPherson on 0208 246 0186 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



## NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



■ TOGETHERNESS: Kensington and Chelsea's Silver Sunday aims to counter loneliness.

## Positive moves that will combat isolation

HAVE you ever had that moment when you look in the mirror and see your father looking back at you?

Only it's not, it's you. And along with the realisation that 'yes, you do look like the old fellow', you twig that crikey, this means you're getting older and how did that happen?

I've celebrated enough birthdays so I shouldn't be surprised that I'm not getting any younger and that inevitably, within this decade, I will join the 6.8 million men aged 60 years and over.

In fact, within 15 years, it is forecast that there will be 9.6 million men aged over 60 in the UK, according to a report from the International Longevity Centre UK and Independent Age.

The issue facing charities and councils like this one is how to reach and engage with this growing group of older men, especially those at risk of loneliness and isolation.

It is an issue that we have been tackling over the past year and are highlighting this autumn in our Silver Sunday programme, which features activities, most of them free, for men and women over 65 years.

And for the first time, this year there are a number of men-only activities. These include: men's space meet-up and social, gym sessions, digital photography, music and walking football.

The concept of men-only groups started in Australia in the 1990s with the 'men in sheds' projects. In this borough, the groups have been running since May 2014 and are, according to Open Age, useful for building con-

fidence as the majority of men who take part are single or widowed and used to male-dominated working environments, such as the construction industry and the army.

Interestingly, when interviewed most of the men say they don't just want men-only activities, but can find it difficult to join or 'break into' activities when the women using their service have already established their own group of friends.

Open Age believes that the men-only activities will provide a bridge to more mainstream services as people become more confident and make new connections.

Anyway, with more than 80 Silver Sunday activities from Monday 28 September until Friday 9 October, there will be plenty of new things to try.

As well as events geared just for men, there are activities aimed at the housebound which include phone clubs, creative writing classes and discussion groups.

There is also a range of sporting and physical activities such as swimming, Pilates and yoga; creative activities including drawing and painting and opportunities to study philosophy, French, and English Literature.

Finally, although I've gone on about the importance of men-only activities, I should point out that there will also be events for women only. We don't like to leave anyone out in Kensington and Chelsea!

The full programme can be viewed at [www.rbkc.gov.uk/silversunday](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/silversunday)

To request a programme, call Open Age on 020 8962 4141 or email [info@openage.org.uk](mailto:info@openage.org.uk)

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To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email [theleader@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:theleader@rbkc.gov.uk)



# Beautiful game proves antidote to threat of radicalisation and terror

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TEN London teenagers have been saved from the lure of ISIS terrorists by a groundbreaking initiative which was born here in the capital – and which is now to go global with the backing of President Obama.

The world's most powerful man has asked for a personal briefing with the team behind a masterplan for an international football-based programme to stop young people becoming radicalised, turning to terrorism and joining gangs, which will be launched in Parliament Square on October 12.

The Football For Unity project, created by two local visionaries from a small office in Kensington High Street, is exploding into a worldwide movement supported by some of the heaviest-hitters in soccer and business and other world leaders.

The Queen, Pope Francis, Britain's Chief Rabbi, the Indian Government, the Dean of Westminster, British leaders of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faiths and the Mayor of London are among the growing team of supporters of The Unity of Faiths Foundation [TUFF], the West London charity powerhouse behind the football scheme.

Now Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid, business giants Forbes, the Russian Football Federation, London Mayor contender and England international Sol Campbell, the Russian ambassador to the UK and the co-owner of Arsenal FC, Alisher Usmanov, are backing a global expansion of TUFF's soccer project which is preventing the radicalisation of young Londoners.

The scheme to get young people from different faiths to lose their rivalries by playing football together was launched just over a year ago by the founders of TUFF, Kensington social psychologist Dr Shamender Talwar and former Mayfair antiques dealer Anna Prior.

They were first approached by 14 children of different religious and cultural backgrounds, mostly from low income families in Southall, who wanted to put a side together and find training facilities safer than the make-do concrete pitches they were using.

Dr Talwar and Ms Prior organised proper astro turf pitches and professional coaches for the teenagers and now TUFF FC has 140 players from all over West London, four main teams including a girls' team, and is competing in the London FA league.

More importantly, through unifying teenagers from previously-opposing cultures and religions to share a love of football and play as teams, TUFF FC has stopped young Muslims leaving home to join ISIS in Syria.

"We have already prevented 10 teenagers from going to join ISIS in Syria," said Dr Talwar. "Through social media the Islamic radical groomers target youngsters and play on their



**GAME ON! TUFF founders, Dr Shamender Talwar, right, and Anna Prior, with former England and Arsenal footballer Sol Campbell and young footballers.**

sense of identity, sowing doubt in their minds with questions of are they Muslim or are they British?

"But we remove the doubt by working closely with our youngsters and earn their trust. We make it clear in everything that we do that their identity is British and football is a great way of doing this. Football breaks down barriers, brings people together and is a fantastic way to learn about British history and culture. What could be more British than playing football?"

"Kids who had been approached on social media came to me and said 'doctor, I've got a situation. With them being Muslim and finding out that other Muslims were increasingly going to Syria they were getting lured into that. But by speaking to them and encouraging them to play in the teams we gave them a sense of direction and positivity, we have been successful in turning youngsters away from the airport.



■ **BACKER: President Obama.**

Basically we've said 'there's the gate to the airport and over here is the gate to Stamford Bridge, where would you prefer to go?'

"Children from different cultures, backgrounds, religions and communities have come together to play together and basically have a camaraderie where they feel welcome as one family at TUFF FC."

Dr Talwar and Ms Prior are now to expand the scheme across England and worldwide because they believe it will work to dissuade other youngsters who are in danger of being radicalised.

"We identified 10 who would have gone to Syria but I think there are thousands more who are also at risk in England," he said. "By speaking to our kids we

realised that this is not just a project for community cohesion in West London. We want to put this template out there for every town in the country and to take it globally. This template works. I don't see another template that has worked as successfully anywhere else."

One TUFF FC player who was approached by Islamic radicals on social media is 15-year-old Iqra Ismail. She was asked to promote Isis to her friends and community and it was suggested to her that she could go to Syria and become a jihadi bride. But instead she went to football training and told Dr Talwar about her problem.

She told *The Guardian*: "I felt very confused and scared. I just wanted to know more about what was going on in Syria because it's in the news all the time. I couldn't understand how I got caught up talking to people who I didn't know and was being asked to do things that I didn't want to do. They were trying to brainwash me. I know a lot of Muslim girls who have been the target of radical grooming. One of the main problems is that they keep it secret because they don't have anywhere to go to talk about it. They are already mixed up about their identity and a lot of confusion sets in. It's really important to have someone you can trust and be open with."

"I was born in London, but always thought of myself as Muslim or Somali. But because of TUFF I know I'm British."

Recently the TUFF FC project came to the attention of President Obama, who has written to Dr Talwar to invite him and the young players to meet him at The White House so that he can learn more about the scheme to see how it will now work in the USA.

The President wrote: "I congratulate you all for trying to make positive changes and to put a smile on all the citizens of the world. It will be a pleasure to meet you all at The White House in the near future."

Dr Talwar said: "President Obama has come behind this scheme because it will work in America as well as it has here.

"Being a visionary, Obama can see that it's not just about the

football but also there is an ethos behind it, not just of a unity of faiths but of having faith in each other as human beings.

"Young people's faith in football is stopping the radicalisation. So far it has worked not just with one person but with 10. And if we are given the means to take it to other parts of the country and expand it around the world I genuinely believe it will work there too. Obama realises that something like this is crucial for world unity and peace will come of that unity. I think Obama sensed that immediately. But we were totally taken aback when he came on-board."

Now TUFF FC is working out how to afford to get to The White House and they may be approaching Sir Richard Branson's Virgin airline – as Dr Talwar intends to take all of the players to meet and brief The President.

"We're waiting for The White House to give us a date and we will be taking all of the kids. He said he wanted to meet us all, so I'm not going to leave anybody behind – that means taking 130 kids. I've no idea how we're going to do it but we will," said Dr Talwar.

Besides protecting youngsters against radicalisation, TUFF FC has also had success in breaking down the bitter rivalries that exist across London in the gang culture.

"We've had rival gang members who were knives drawn at each other before they joined us," said Dr Talwar. "But because of what we've done to bring them together those gang rivals are now playing together in the same football team."

On October 12 in Parliament Square the example of TUFF FC will be launched as a worldwide project, Football For Unity.

Dr Talwar said: "Ambassadors from Mexico, Argentina and Russia are coming to the launch along with the Dean of Westminster, Britain's Chief Rabbi and leaders of all other faiths, because they all believe that Football For Unity is what is required right now. What was a good idea of a year ago has become a complete necessity now."

"Football For Unity projects will be set up worldwide, scaling up from successful existing projects in the UK, Spain, the USA and Mexico, to provide structured games, training, facilities and health awareness education. This will be targeted on groups of young people from diverse local communities who can benefit from improved integration through sport. Through Football For Unity an environment is created where each child has the opportunity to play and study football, regardless of his or her background. Participants are provided with a positive

platform on which they can express their aspirations and connect with fellow pupils from different backgrounds, thereby creating unity within local communities. In the process they are given the opportunity to develop their own voice. Lack of education and ignorance creates barriers. Many are burdened with prejudices against black, Asian or white people; against Muslims, Hindus, Jews or Christians; against the poor or the rich; the slow or the clever; the skinny or the obese; the disabled, the homeless, the jobless. Hatred of anyone who is different has no place in our new global community. Knowledge is key to tackling hatred and education is at the heart of Football For Unity.

"Football For Unity is also about service to community. It is noble to lead by example and it is every person's duty and responsibility to contribute to their community. By creating links and friendships between neighbours of different backgrounds within local communities, the programme helps to create a more harmonious, united community and paves the way for all sorts of future co-operation on social action projects."

Dr Talwar said he is seeking the support of the FA and the Prime Minister, both who have been invited to attend the launch of the TUFF FC scheme going global.

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# £2.5 million will help thousands give sport a go

BY LWN REPORTER  
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TENS of thousands of Londoners will have the chance to get active and take part in sports programmes across the capital thanks to an additional £2.5 million investment announced by the Mayor of London.

Boris Johnson has launched a new fund to help sports clubs in the capital thrive and has extended two successful schemes that are already encouraging people of all ages to get into the sporting habit.

The three different rounds of funding launched are:

■ **ClubWorks** – £1.35m fund to boost 300 sports clubs and organisations and help them build for the future.

■ **Mayor's Sports Participation Fund** – £1m investment to encourage Londoners to take part in sport and physical activity.

■ **FreeSport** (in association with Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives) – £200,000 which allows youth groups and community organisations to apply for grants to run free sports activities.

All three schemes are part of the Mayor's £25m Sports Legacy Programme, which is helping to create opportunities for people to get active by investing in sporting projects across every London borough.

Mr Johnson said: "My Sports Legacy Programme has already benefitted more than 400,000 Londoners and I hope this additional funding will strengthen clubs across the capital with the ultimate aim of increasing further the number of

Londoners who play sport regularly. There is no doubt grassroots sport plays an important part of our communities, offering an opportunity for all to learn new skills, get active and stay healthy.

"We want this investment to ensure London continues to be the region with the highest participation rates in the country."

The brand new ClubWorks scheme, which is to be delivered by London Sport, will strengthen 300 sports clubs and groups in London over the next three years so they can develop a strong base of trained coaches and volunteers, ensure they are sustainable and attractive to funders and ultimately increase participation at their clubs. The scheme is being rolled out by the Mayor as the successor to his Sports Legacy Skills Fund, which helped train 13,000 coaches and officials across the capital.

A pilot group of 25 clubs have already been selected to kick-start the programme and have begun working with London Sport to identify a tailored package of support they will receive.

Grants of up to £175,000 are also now available for London-wide projects as part of the Mayor's Sports Participation Fund, which aims to get more Londoners taking part in sport through the provision of two-year long sports participation projects.

This is targeted investment to support initiatives that aim to engage with two specific under-represented demographic groups: women and girls, and people over the age of 40. Since 2009, more than 290,000 Londoners have participated in 44 projects funded through the Mayor's Sports Participation Fund, with activities ranging from athletics to zumba.

The third round of funding open this week is FreeSport, which will see around 150 projects across London receive grants of up to £1,500.

FreeSport, in association with Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives, aims to work with community groups and clubs to help encourage people to take part in sport and provide more than six hours of free sports coaching to thousands of Londoners. This latest funding round is targeting organisations that do not traditionally engage in sport but would like to trial sports programmes, with activities to run from January to April next year. So far 75,000 Londoners have taken part in over 1,500 FreeSport projects.

Kate Hoey MP, the Mayor's Sports Commissioner, said: "These three programmes are an exciting opportunity for sports clubs and community groups of all shapes and sizes to get the support they need to get more Londoners active."

## LONDON WIDE



■ **STATIONERY ON THE MOVE:** FedEx staff sort through a mountain of pens, pencils and writing books. They are, from right to left, Kerry Rawlingson, Nicola Armitt, Shelley Hampton and Helen Towers.

## Parcel firm delivers write stuff for kids

PARCELS giant FedEx Express made one of their most important deliveries when they took essential school equipment to help disadvantaged children and young people in Hackney, in support of Action for Children.

The charity helps more than 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers through 650 projects across the UK.

FedEx staff have donated more than 430 educational items to Action for Children and a total of 2,502 items have been collected by FedEx nationwide.

The company's donations included

new and unused pens, colouring pencils and notepads as well as first aid and sewing kits. These FedEx supplies were circulated to nine different Action for Children services across the UK.

Trevor Hoyle, vice-president, Northern Europe Operations, FedEx Express, said: "Our team members in Hackney are always willing to support and give back to their local communities and we're incredibly proud of their generous spirit and commitment to making a positive difference throughout the UK."

"We have a longstanding relationship with Action for Children

and we hope our combined support will help ensure these children and young people have the best possible start to the new school year."

Mary O'Hagan, corporate fundraising manager at Action for Children, said: "FedEx team members have been fantastic supporters of Action for Children over the past five years, volunteering their time and fundraising to support Action for Children's work in local communities. This latest initiative will enable us to help children and young people in the local area get the best possible start to the new school year."

## Wine show tickets offer

WINE trade publication *The Drinks Business* has launched a new wine fair designed to encourage people to buy quality wines – and *London Weekly News* readers can get an exclusive discount on tickets. With a unique promotional code, readers can buy tickets for the reduced price of £15 (normally £30).

Situated in the Old Town Hall in the heart of Chelsea, The Wine Show – Chelsea will showcase more than 500 award-winning wines from around the world, at the inaugural event taking place between October 16 and 18. Wine enthusiasts will be given the opportunity to discover and buy fine wines from merchants and producers from across the globe, whilst expert wine advisors will be on hand throughout the show to offer help and advice.

Patrick Schmitt, editor-in-chief of *The Drinks Business*, said there was a real movement towards drinking better wine, but more still needed to be done.

He said: "It may be a touch hackneyed to say this, but today's wine drinker is more knowledgeable than



ever before, and therefore increasingly willing to spend more on a bottle. Nevertheless, consumers still need plenty of help to fully explore the world of wine – and that's why we are launching The Wine Show – Chelsea.

"Aside from introducing drinkers to a broader array of wines, we also want to encourage consumers to spend a touch more on a bottle so they can enjoy a significant rise in quality. Currently, the average price of a bottle in UK retailers is £5.37, but at that price, just 43 pence goes towards the wine itself – and almost £3 to the Government in tax (duty plus VAT)."

Mr Schmitt added: "Move up to £8 however, and you're getting at least £2 worth of wine – almost five times the amount for just a small increase in spend. And move beyond £8, and up to at least £15, and the quality improves exponentially. But, if you asked me to pick a sweet spot, it's

probably around £12."

The three-day wine fair will also highlight the exclusive range of award-winning wines from the drinks business Global Masters competition. One of the three halls will showcase more than 200 award-winning wines from the series.

The Wine Show – Chelsea will also offer the opportunity for people to widen their wine horizons at the expert master classes; try a first-rate Cabernet from Macedonia, a lip-smacking Chardonnay from Lebanon and Rhône-rivalling Syrah from Switzerland.

Throughout the weekend food from around the world will be available to complement the wines. And a charity tombola will be held in support of Help for Heroes.

The Wine Show – Chelsea will launch on Friday October 16 at 5pm and run until the evening of Sunday, October 18. If you would like to take advantage of our exclusive offer just enter the code **lwnwine** to receive a 50 per cent discount. Readers need to add the promo code when ordering tickets at [thewineshowchelsea.com](http://thewineshowchelsea.com)



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# Carnival future in question

Police chief tells council he 'lacks confidence' in their organisation of Notting Hill parade

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynnews.co.uk

SCOTLAND Yard chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has criticised Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council over its organising of the Notting Hill Carnival – raising questions of whether the historically crime-rife Bank Holiday Monday parade should be axed.

The Met Commissioner said he will be writing to the council “to indicate our lack of confidence in the quality of the organisation” and to express his fears for public safety in the current running of Carnival.

Briefing the GLA's Police and Crime Committee on the Carnival last week, Sir Bernard spelled out a series of police concerns over the running of the event, for which Kensington and Chelsea Council is chiefly responsible as the main licensing authority.

Sir Bernard said more than 400 arrests were made at this year's Carnival – the highest figure in a decade – and the total number of crimes recorded had risen to 683, from 620 last year. A further 143 arrests were made across London in the week before Carnival in a series of swoops designed to seize potential troublemakers.

In one of the Carnival incidents a police officer was stabbed and the Met chief said he was “disappointed” that the 17-year-old youth responsible had only been given a six-month prison sentence.

Sir Bernard is facing having to make more cuts in the Met budget which are expected to be around £800 million. He warned the committee that due to the coming cuts next year the Met may not be able to police Carnival at the same level as this year – where 7,000 officers were on duty on the Bank Holiday, a quarter of the total strength of the force – as policing the event on a bank holiday causes huge extra costs as the officers have to receive double pay.

A key part of the police problem at Carnival is organisers not providing enough stewards. Although the GLA provides funds for 1,000 stewards, on the day only half that number turned up – meaning that the Met had to take on stewarding duties instead of concentrating on their policing role.

He told the committee: “My major



COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Police officers and revellers at this year's Carnival. REX

concern is that it could be better organised and in fact I will be writing to the local borough to advise them that we expect more action to be taken in the future to get better organisation – not least because I am not sure that we're going to have that many officers to police it next year. Financially it's a real burden because it cost over £6 million, and every time something takes place over a bank holiday we have a significant cost.

“So for reasons of organisation and minimising risk, for reasons that obviously we want to make it a great event, we expect to see better organisation by the organisers to reduce the number of police who get involved with stewarding, not in policing.”

Sir Bernard said: “It [organising Carnival] could be done better. It's got to be

more professional. It's a massive event, with over a million people going, and the organisers have a professional responsibility for the people who go there – that's got to be far better organised.”

He added: “They do their best but this costs money and that money will have to be found. I don't think that the substitute factor should be the police, because we cannot take the responsibility of the organisers, we can't mitigate the risks that we see. We are writing formally to the local authority, because they have licensing responsibilities, to indicate our lack of confidence at the moment in the quality of the organisation which is leading to policing having to fill the gap. We cannot take responsibility for the event.

“This is quite a different approach, in part driven by finance and in part by my

own experience. Every Monday while I've been here I've always gone to Notting Hill Carnival on that day, and it's not improving in terms of its organisation. There's some fantastic people having a great time, but the risks remain.”

Sir Bernard was pressed on his fears by committee member Andrew Dismore, the GLA member for Barnet and Camden.

Mr Dismore said: “You're raising the need for tougher licensing from Kensington and Chelsea as the lead borough, what happens if they don't get into this tougher licensing because of course local authorities are subject to financial pressures as well?”

The Met chief replied: “It's their legal responsibility for which they have to take accountability.”

Mr Dismore said: “So what you're saying to them is you've got to toughen up the licensing or what?”

Sir Bernard said: “It's not my job to say or what, it's their job to decide what they're going to do about it.”

He added: “We've been talking to them for many years about trying to get improvements and my judgement is that it is producing limited effect. The risk to public safety remains and we cannot continue to provide policing at that level, to provide the mitigation. And I can't take any responsibility for the safety of the people there.

“We've spent an hour here talking about our financial situation, this is one of the big things. You've identified that we provided 7,000 officers, a quarter of what we have, and we cannot continue in the same way. So this is the time to draw a line.”

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in London, Stephen Greenhalgh, said: “The GLA provides funding for stewarding and my briefing was for around 1,000 stewards. But on the day it's far fewer than that, it's around 500.”

Mr Dismore asked Sir Bernard if he was suggesting that more civilian stewards were needed and the Met chief replied by raising questions over whether Carnival's current programme of parades on the Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday should be changed, and whether a new route should be found. In the past there have been suggestions that Carnival is taken away from Notting Hill and staged in Hyde Park instead.

Sir Bernard said: “The licensing arrangements are about when does it happen? The licensing arrangements are

about where does it happen? When does it start? These are the sort of things that have a major impact.

“If it continues on a Bank Holiday, there is a financial consequence.

“The Carnival has a great tradition but it also has great responsibilities and we're trying to draw that to a head to make sure that everybody involved with all their powers considers their joint responsibilities as well as we our own.”

Mr Dismore said: “Are you saying that you want to see a different route and a different weekend for it?”

Sir Bernard replied: “We've talked in the past about different routes and we've talked in the past about the option of it not being on the bank holiday. Of course people who hold festivals want to them over a bank holiday but we as public servants say we haven't got the money to do it.

“We've got to look at all the options as they have as a local authority, given their financial constraints, and I think we just need to consider it seriously.”

Asked what alternative route for the Carnival he would prefer, the Met chief said he “couldn't get into that” as he first had to write to Kensington and Chelsea Council, who share responsibilities for Carnival with Westminster City Council.

“We are writing to them about our concerns and we will then discuss with them in a partnership way how that might change in this coming year.”

Sir Bernard's concerns were echoed at the meeting by Deputy Mayor for Policing Stephen Greenhalgh.

He said: “The reality is that you've got police as a public organisation with huge financial pressures, you've got two local authorities that have gone through austerity since 2010 and you've got the GLA that has its pressures as well. I haven't seen, and the Mayor hasn't led me to believe, that there's a place where there's a huge pot of money to pay for more stewards. This is a fantastically-important part of the cultural calendar but we want it to be safe and we want it to be something that people can enjoy, but the number of arrests over two days is extremely high and the level of crime has gone up.

“We want a safe Carnival and one that has a secure future and I at the moment think that an event which is under-stewarded and over-policed is something that needs to change.”

Kensington and Chelsea Council did not respond to a request for its comments on the Met's concerns.

## Nightmare scenario if we cancel it, warns councillor

COUNCILLOR Pat Mason, the chairman of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet and Corporate Scrutiny Committee, which also acts as the Crime & Disorder Committee, has defended Carnival in a letter to the Met chief.

He wrote: “I have read your comments about concerns over the stewarding and management of the Carnival, about the crime numbers on this year's event, that 7,000 officers cannot continue to be provided to police the two-day event that you state costs £6 million. You are reported as saying that the police can no longer take responsibility for the safety of carnival-goers, and that RBKC should consider moving the ‘party’, to Hyde Park for example, holding it on a different weekend or reducing it from two days to one day.

“I, and no doubt the council Cabinet too, share your concerns about the management and stewarding of the Carnival that has been a historical problem partly resulting from the often disjointed policies and decisions over

the years by RBKC and the Mayor's Office on what the structure of management and governance should be, as well as the lack of funds to train or hire sufficient numbers of stewards and to pay for the operation of the necessary carnival organisation.

“I am well aware that your current views on Carnival are informed by the expected £800 million cut from 2016 to the Metropolitan Police budget in the government's upcoming spending review. And this on top of the already implemented £500 million-plus of policing cuts. I am also aware that a former senior police officer has been engaged to produce a plan designed to remove all or most officers from the carnival over a three-year period. These would apparently be replaced by a larger number of professional stewards.

“No one is happy, least of all me who has attended 37 carnivals – 25 as a Carnival adviser to the police – if officers or carnival-goers are injured, but the assertion that crime levels at Carnival are worse now than in the past

surely cannot be supported by the facts. In 2002 there were two murders at Carnival and several people were stabbed, there has been gunfire in the past, and 10 to 12 years ago dozens of gangs used to stream through the Carnival in their hundreds, robbing and assaulting police officers and carnival-goers. There were several mass riots during the past 25 years. Thankfully these are now a thing of the past.

“I would suggest that this changed atmosphere at Carnival is the result of year-on-year improved management and support given to carnival from the Royal Borough and our officers – we had over 70 officers working on Carnival this year – as well as the pre and during carnival policing and community relations initiatives introduced by the Metropolitan Police under previous Police Commissioners.

“The carnival is not a party, as you described it. It was born from the Afro Caribbean community's experience during the 1958 race riots when they were attacked on the streets and in their homes by gangs of white racists

that the police of the day did little or nothing to stop. This culminated in the murder of Kelso Cochrane by a group of racists in May 1959 in the ward that I represent on the Council. Many older Afro Caribbean residents remember that, as with the Stephen Lawrence murder, the police in Kensington and Chelsea of that time failed to properly investigate the murder resulting in the murderer, even though his name was common knowledge locally, escaping justice.

“Today, carnival is a celebration of all things Afro Caribbean, for example the historical events it was born from, and the 50 years of good community relations that North Kensington residents, the Afro Caribbean community and the council has painstakingly built. The carnival has deep roots in the North Kensington community and is forever internationally linked to the Royal Borough, and to London.

“The last time there was a suggestion that the carnival should be cancelled or moved when Mrs Thatcher was premier

in the 1980s, RBKC and the police suffered severe reputational damage that set back community relations for many years. I remember that Westminster Council were implacably opposed to a then suggestion that the carnival should move to Hyde Park, or that the Carnival procession should start or end in Hyde Park because many residents around Hyde Park and along the route told the news media that it would lower the prices of their properties, a most scandalous comment to make.

“I believe, from information received back in the 1980s and from current information, that if any attempt was made then, or if it is made now to curtail, cancel or move carnival, then the Free or Community Carnival forces are likely to move in and we could have a completely unregulated 48 hours non-stop event. And preventing this from happening or trying to stop such an event in progress would, I suggest, create a nightmare scenario that could result in real danger for borough residents and local businesses.”





# UNDER THE WESTWAY

## Thousands set to benefit through 33 grant awards

**Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, congratulates the recipients of its Community Grants Programme and highlights how their projects will provide local people with many more opportunities**

**L**AST week our board made a landmark decision. We unanimously and enthusiastically supported applications from 33 outstanding projects that will bring benefits to almost 3,600 people living locally.

Westway Trust has a long and proud history of supporting the community through grant funding. These 33 organisations are successful applicants in the current Community Grants programme, which will distribute more than £100,000 this year alone.

I was delighted with the enthusiastic interest from the local community. We received an encouraging 51 responses from organisations and groups over the two months that applications were open. We re-launched the grants programme this summer to give local charities and voluntary organisations the chance to join us and help deliver our vision – to support and safeguard a stronger, more resilient local



■ **TOGETHERNESS: Shabe Yalda project will celebrate Christmas and the Yalda.**

community underpinned by better health, economic advantage and a greener and cleaner environment.

The programme has two grant types. Grants of up to £500 are being made available for one-off community celebrations and events, including performance arts workshops, garden and street parties, arts projects and other events.

Grants worth up to £2,500 are being made available for projects that support and improve the health and well-being of the local community as well as projects that provide economic opportunities. Groups that celebrate local talent and diversity, including

disability sports events, mental health projects, employment and volunteering programmes, and skills training were all encouraged to apply.

The 33 successful projects, which will receive funding totalling almost £55,000, demonstrated they could reach large numbers of local people; are aiming to tackle the health and economic problems of local people in innovative and exciting ways; and showed they can make a positive difference to people's lives.

The range of issues the projects seek to address is staggering and shows the complex needs of people living in the area. The mix of celebration events we

are helping to fund, to bring people together and share cultural, religious and community festivals and events is fantastic and highlights the real diversity of the Westway community.

Having reviewed all of the successful applications, I am very confident that every single one of them will make a positive difference to Westway's communities.

Some examples of projects that have stood out for me include the Shabe Yalda project, which rejoices in an ancient Iranian Festival originally celebrated on the shortest day of the year. The event this year will combine Christmas and the Yalda to bring together two cultures under one community. This project exemplifies the type of place Westway is – extremely diverse and culturally rich. Celebrating cultural differences but bringing people together to share experiences.

We are funding a youth theatre group to produce a performance that addresses issues of housing, social isolation and low self-esteem. There is a recycling programme for young people, using science to explain the benefits of recycling to individuals and the environment. There will be singing, dancing and performance classes for

older people. A film will be produced that explores the plight of refugees from the point of view of children and their parents. These are just a handful of examples that sum up the passion and commitment of people living and working locally to help improve opportunities and the quality of life in the Westway area.

You can read the full list of projects that we are supporting on our website [www.westway.org](http://www.westway.org).

I know everyone on our Westway Trust Board and management team felt proud and inspired when these projects were approved for grant funding.

They will help build a community that is stronger, more resilient and tolerant and supportive of each other in the months and years ahead. It is the type of community we all want to live in. I look forward to hearing how the projects and celebrations are rolled out over the coming months. We will be sure to keep you informed of how things are progressing. Watch our website, our social media, and your *London Weekly News*.

And, if you are enthused by all the projects on show, then why not apply for funding when the second round of applications opens in early January 2016?

## Celebrate science with free town hall events

KENSINGTON Town Hall will turn into a science hub from Saturday, 3 October, for two weeks, when the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, in conjunction with Imperial College and the Natural History Museum, hosts a selection of free talks and events as part of its annual Celebration of Science.

The programme ranges from a look into the science, engineering and planning behind Boris Bikes and Crossrail construction to artificial intelligence and astrophysics.

Speakers include: ■ Dr Mark Paine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who will talk about the Bill Gates Foundation and the prac-

tical challenges of eradicating malaria

■ Dr Noah Moxham on the role of Sir Hans Sloane in establishing the learned journals of the Royal Society and Professor Dave Garner on the role of the Royal Society in modern science publishing

■ Professor Terry Lyons on the maths and science behind the quantitative analysis of financial markets, and

■ Professor Aaron Williamon, Royal College of Music and Imperial College, on the physics of sound and music, and the physiology of performance.

Cllr Warwick Lightfoot, the Council's lead on the festival, said: "Once again the Celebra-

tion of Science programme promises to be stimulating and thought-provoking.

"Whether it's planning the demand for Boris Bikes or studying air quality or measurement of time and the use of atomic clock, you can be sure that there will be some really interesting science behind it.

"I'd recommend a close look at the programme and hope as many people as possible can come along to hear these fascinating talks. I'd like to thank the Natural History Museum and Imperial College for their continuing support."

For an up-to-date programme of events, see [www.rbkc.gov.uk/celebration-of-science](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/celebration-of-science)

## Cheaper energy plan you'll warm to

KENSINGTON and Chelsea residents who want to save money on their energy bills can join the Big London Energy Switch auction.

This is a collective switching scheme designed to allow residents to access some of the lowest fuel tariffs available.

In the February auction over 80 residents signed up to the scheme and 48 per cent switched, with average savings of £328 per year. The latest

scheme was launched on September 1 and you can find out more and sign up at [www.rbkc.gov.uk/energyswitch](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/energyswitch)

If you or someone you know does not have easy access to the internet, or has experienced difficulty trying to sign up, please call Age UK's Information and Advice Service on 020 8969 9105 or the Healthier Homes Hotline on 0808 202 6204. The closing date to sign up is Monday 12

October and the auction will take place the following day. If you have chosen to sign, personal offers will be sent out from Monday 26 October and you need to decide to accept or not before Tuesday 24 November. If you choose to accept the offer you will be guided through the switching process.

However, if you would like further advice call Healthier Homes on 0808 202 6204.

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# London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 44

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Thursday, October 1st 2015

## Sophie champions local press

### COUNTESS OF WESSEX PRAISES ROLE OF OUR LONDON TITLES



■ SIR Ray Tindle escorts The Countess of Wessex, Culture Minister John Whittingdale and principal guests onto HMS Belfast.

BY KATE GOULD  
kate@slp.co.uk

LOCAL newspapers are alive and kicking - that was the message from London Weekly News owner and publisher Sir Ray Tindle at a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the South London Press.

The event took place on HMS Belfast on the Thames.

Among the many guests were HRH The Countess of Wessex, who championed the role of local papers, and Culture Secretary John Whittingdale.

Speaking at the event, Sir Ray said local communities "want their own local newspaper" and he was proud that the South London Press newspaper - part of the London Weekly

News Group - had served its community for 150 years.

He said: "Local communities will always have their own local newspaper. Local democracy demands it."

"Recent research has shown that readers are more likely to retain information gained from newspapers than information conveyed in other forms."

#### Long future ahead

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TURN TO PAGE 2



■ SIR Ray Tindle, chairman of Tindle Newspapers Limited, welcomes The Countess of Wessex to HMS Belfast for the 150th anniversary of the South London Press.

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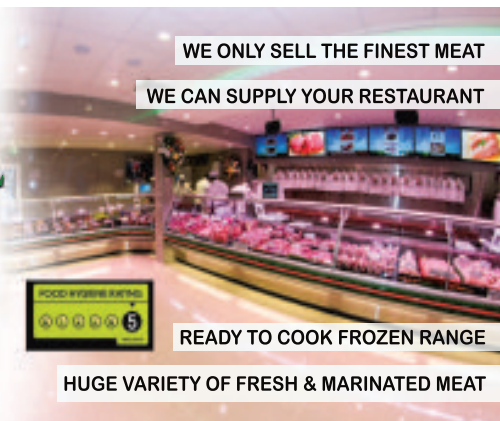
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# ROYAL LONDON

*This week we make royal news...*

## ‘Shining example’ of all that’s best in local press

### ■ FROM PAGE ONE

at the South London Press and The Mercury - is a resounding 'yes'.

"This marvellous staff here has stood firm under the worst recession conditions known in living memory."

The Countess of Wessex congratulated the South London Press on its anniversary and paid tribute to the role it plays in its local community.

Mr Whittingdale said local papers were "essential for local democracy".

He also pledged support from the Government, and said it was looking at ways to help such as a consultation on business rates and discussions with the BBC about ways to partner with local papers.

Mr Whittingdale said the South London Press was a "shining example in all that is best about local newspapers" which were essential to hold local politicians to account.

### Essential to democracy

He said: "I am of the view that local newspapers are absolutely essential to the country and to democracy."

"The local press is absolutely vital in ensuring that our electors know about what we are doing, sometimes criticising us when they think we are not doing enough."

"How else are local people able to make a judgement about the performance of their elected representatives except through the local press?"

The Countess also unveiled a plaque to celebrate the achievement after which she was presented with an inscribed silver rose bowl by Karen Sheppard, joint managing director of the London Weekly News Group.

Other guests included David Newell, chief executive of the News Media Association; Elizabeth Buchanan, Trustee of the Prince of Wales Countryside Fund; Pete Clifton, editor-in-chief of the Press Association; and Gary Cullum, editor and publisher of Production Journal.

Sir Ray, who set up his publishing company with the money he received from being demobbed from the Army, has 200 titles including 38 in Greater London.



■ THE Countess of Wessex unveils a plaque commemorating the 150th anniversary of the South London Press



■ SIR Ray Tindle shares a joke with The Countess of Wessex at the anniversary lunch



■ THE Countess of Wessex receives an inscribed rose bowl from Karen Sheppard, joint managing director of the London Weekly News



■ WENDY Craig, vice-chairman of Tindle Newspapers Limited, greets The Countess of Wessex

Photos by  
**MAGNUS ANDERSSON**

## WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

## Receptions for Duke of Edinburgh award winners

Full details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

### ■ September 29th

The Duke of Gloucester, as President, Greenwich Foundation, will attend a Gala Dinner in support of the conservation of the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College, King William Walk, Greenwich.

### ■ September 30th

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron, St. George's Society of New York, will attend the Advisory Council Meeting at Collier Capital, Cavendish Square W1.

The Duke of Kent will attend the Order of St. Michael and St. George



■ THE Earl of Wessex who will be presiding over two Duke of Edinburgh award events in the coming week

evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral.

### ■ October 1st

The Countess of Wessex, as President, National Society

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will attend the Annual Council Meeting 2015 in the Great Hall, Imperial College.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron, International Musicians Seminar, Prussia Cove will attend a concert at The Wigmore Hall.

### ■ October 5th

The Princess Royal, as Patron, UK Youth, will attend a Reception, Mall Galleries, The Mall.

### ■ October 6th

The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hold a Diamond Supporters Reception and Diamond Leaders Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, will hold two Receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard of The Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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*'Stand up and confront aggressors' – William*

**ROYAL LONDON**

# Prince rejects bullying

**BY JACK DIXON**

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PRINCE William set out a tough stance on playground bullies during a visit to west London last week.

The Duke of Cambridge spoke of the need to stand up and confront aggressors, revealing that he would reach out to his family if he ever felt victimised.

Young students at the Hammersmith Academy said they had been inspired by the Duke's words, after he visited the school to take part in an anti-bullying workshop.

The issue is thought to be close to the hearts of both William and his wife Kate, who chose the 'Beatbullying' charity as one of several worthy causes to receive donations when they married in 2011.

"I would try to confront, to tackle the person," the Duke said during the session. "I usually find myself right in the middle of problems so that's pretty much where I'd be."

The session was organised by the Diana Award's #Back2School campaign – a scheme set up in honour of William's late mother to put a stop to abusive behaviour inside and outside the classroom.

Thousands of anti-bullying ambassadors are being trained to take a stand against abuse in their communities, channelling the Princess of Wales' enduring spirit of care and belief that young people have the power to change the world.

During the visit, the Duke met dozens of youngsters from several west London schools and listened intently to accounts of their own traumatic experiences.

He then joined in with a series of group exercises focus-



**ROYAL RECOGNITION:** Prince William meets students at Hammersmith Academy to reinforce his anti-bullying message.

ing on cyber bullying and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues.

Asked to write down the names of five people he would turn to if he ever felt bullied, William listed his wife Catherine and brother Harry, followed by his father Prince Charles and grandparents The Queen and Prince Philip. The Duke added the name of his pet Spaniel, Lupo, in brackets.

Later he took part in a game involving a student becoming tangled up in a ball of string to demonstrate how a web of online messages can quickly spiral into abuse.

And he also helped the am-

bassadors to list a series of bullying signs and symptoms, speaking of the importance of good communication skills as a means to resolve differences.

Seeking to ensure that no child "suffers in silence", the campaign is working closely with schools to make youngsters aware of available support networks.

The scheme has already signed up more than 16,000 anti-bullying ambassadors in 3,000 schools across the UK and Ireland.

The ambassadors are taught to spot the signs of bullying and ways in which they can encourage victims to seek help

and speak out about their concerns.

An online survey conducted by the Diana Award over the summer found that more than half the students who took part were worried about the impact of bullying, either on themselves or their peers.

Many students also admitted to changing their behaviour or appearance because of the bullying they faced.

Gary Kynaston, Headteacher at the Hammersmith Academy, said the Duke had helped to deliver an important message about "active citizenship" in school.

"One of the things we are very passionate about is giving our students skill sets for life - we encourage them to be professional and to be confident communicators," he said.

"It's about engaging with each other, supporting each other - and it really got across to the students.

"This was a great opportunity for them to meet someone so famous, and I think they were all surprised by the Duke's normality."

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**INSPIRATION:** Diana, Princess of Wales supported the anti-bullying initiative.



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# Lewis: all the evidence makes compelling case for retirement

by Geoff Baker

**I**S Lewis the lugubrious lawman finally packing it in as TV's long-running detective?

As a new series, the ninth, is about to start, there are clues that this could be the last time that the Oxford inspector calls.

For a TV drama that has been running since 2006, if the end is nigh it would be little surprise as few crime capers last so long. Indeed, a bigger surprise is that *Lewis* has lasted for this long, for its murder rate is so high it's almost astonishing that there is anyone in Oxford who has not been killed yet.

Although not quite as fanciful as *Midsomer Murders*, which would have us believe that moving to that quaint Cotswolds village gives you a life expectancy worse than that in any Mexican drugs zone, *Lewis* has certainly created the impression to the world that Oxford is not a place where you want to be wandering the streets at night.

In the 30 episodes of the story so far, the non-laughing policeman who became a hit spin-off from Colin Dexter's *Inspector Morse* has solved 48 murders, of whom 21 of the victims have been students or professors; making the city of dreaming spires a precarious place to study.

No wonder then that an American blogger recently posted online what appeared to be a sincere query of whether it was safe to go to Oxford at all.

"People do get it wildly wrong," says Crispian Strachan, a former chief constable of Northumbria Police who became a tutor at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology.

"It's not surprising really. There is so much murder on television that people fear it more than they should. There is a huge fear of stranger murders, which is completely wrong and unrepresentative of real life.

"The other thing is that fictional detectives let the bodies rack up. Morse once allowed six murders to take place in the time he was investigating one - if that was real life he would have been replaced by someone who could actually do the job."

When last we saw *Lewis*, the inspector was as always dithering over the future of his lovelife with forensic pathologist Dr Laura Hobson. Now it seems that the show's writers may have decided to draw the saga to a close by finally hitching the frustrated doctor with her reluctant lover and sending them flying off to New Zealand together.

ITV executives are refusing to give away anything about the



■ QUESTION TIME: Kevin Whately and Laurence Fox return for a new series of *Lewis* on ITV.

ending, knowing that suspense is good for the ratings. But *Lewis*'s sidekick, Inspector Hathaway, may have let the cat out of the bag.

On his Facebook page, Laurence Fox recently posted a teasing video of him and Kevin Whately performing a version of John Denver's *Leaving On A Jetplane*, filed at a *Lewis* rap party, with Whately improvising the line "all my scripts are packed, I'm ready to go".

*Lewis* fans, honed by nine years of spotting clues, have gone into meltdown and many are the messages of wailing and "oh no, it's the end" that fol-

lowed Fox's post.

But for long-time *Lewis*-watchers a finale has been expected as both of the stars have been getting itchy feet to try a new beat.

Whately, who created Robbie Lewis as the apprentice to John Thaw in the original *Inspector Morse* way back in 1987, has been hinting for some while that this new series could be the last time he plays the part.

Last year he admitted that he was close to having had enough.

"I would probably do one more," he said, "but everything has a life span and I think it's gone on long enough. There

were 33 *Inspector Morse* stories and we've already done 30 of *Lewis*. I suppose it's a sentimental thing but I wouldn't want to do more *Lewis* than we did *Morse* because I do still think of it as an offshoot. There's the age thing as well - I'm older than John Thaw was when he died, bless him. It's a long time to play one character, but sometimes it only feels like yesterday that we started.

"And then I catch an old *Morse* on ITV3. I've never thought I looked particularly like my son. He's taller than me and blond. But when I see *Lewis* walk into a room with

John Thaw, it's like my son has just come onto the screen. That's very strange indeed."

Fox, the son of English film legend James Fox and nephew of the even-more-famous Edward, also has other plans - hoping to make something good of his night job, as a singer-songwriter-guitarist.

Although it is an old cliché that many actors want to become rock stars and vice versa, Fox is unusual in that his songs are actually very good and although the record business is a lot more precarious these days than acting, with a new album of memorable songs coming out and gigs at key venues like The Borderline under his belt he could become of the very few thespians who - like Hugh Laurie - actually manage the transfer.

"I'm releasing my own music and then I will be promoting it," says Fox, who starts the ninth series of *Lewis* by clashing with the new boss, Chief Superintendent Joseph Moody, played by Steve Toussaint.

"Hathaway is not very good with authority and he doesn't like it when Moody involves himself in his cases," says Fox.

"He also doesn't like the way that Moody speaks to Lewis, so Hathaway attempts to defend and protect him.

"Moody represents a change and Hathaway doesn't like change. His behaviour towards him remains the same throughout the new series, Hathaway feels that Moody has to prove himself to him; he gets off to a rocky start and it takes time for it to improve.

"Whereas he and Lewis continue to complement each other very well. They like each other, they are yin and yang and are as close to friends as you can get without actually being friends."

In the last series *Lewis* left the force and then came out of retirement to act as a consultant. Although still in that advisory role now, with cuts in the police budget now commonplace the old detective comes back to the screen feeling very unsure of himself.

"Lewis is starting to feel a bit jumpy and not sure how long his role as a consultant is going to last," says Whately. "The new chief is starting to question his role in the force and he's feeling a bit surplus to requirements. It makes him tetchy as now he feels that he has to prove himself a bit. *Lewis* has never been much of a go-getter but he's very comfortable with policing. He has solved dozens of murders and it's what he's good at. Policing is what he knows and what he likes, retirement didn't suit him at all. If he's not a cop, then what is he?"

"But besides worrying about

his future, now he's also concerned for Hathaway. Lewis is quite paternal with Hathaway and now he's got this new man Moody questioning everything that Hathaway does, to the extent that their relationship becomes very strained and Hathaway won't communicate with him at all. Lewis realises that Hathaway could get himself into trouble there so he mediates and tries to protect him.

"On top of that, Lewis now also has issues over his future with Dr Hobson. Although their relationship is a happy one, she wants to travel to see her family in New Zealand and is contemplating retirement, but Lewis is not at all sure what this will mean for him. The nearer the trip gets the more he is fretting about his job and whether there will be a role for him when he gets back."

If ITV chiefs have decided that there is no more role for Lewis, which in part has been superseded by the prequel *Endeavour*, in which Shaun Evans plays a young detective constable Morse, it may also be down to viewing figures. When *Lewis* began in 2006 it was drawing an audience of more than 11 million.

However, the audience for the last series fell to around half that. But *Endeavour* pulled in an audience of more than six million per episode.

As *Endeavour* is also set in Oxford and a new series has been commissioned by ITV, that must be a relief to Oxford City Council, for whom Morse and the sons of Morse have been a great promotion for three decades.

"We always get a great response filming in Oxford," says Whately. "We were filming in the street a couple of weeks ago and a crowd of more than 500 gathered to watch in under half an hour."

"I think both *Lewis* and *Endeavour* benefit a lot from the legacy of *Morse*, in particular with what John Thaw did with the character. The concept of a two-hour detective film was so new when it began but it has set a trend that TV has taken on for 30 years. *Morse* established such a huge fan base that we have inherited, so really we can't fail."

"And I think Oxford has been important in that. It's a unique ingredient in the drama because it is so otherworldly in a lot of way. Oxford is iconic and it always looks beautiful on the camera because of the colour of the stone, it has given us a dimension to the *Lewis* stories that we couldn't have got from filming elsewhere."

■ *Lewis* ITV October 6, 9pm





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# WINE & DINE

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## Just have fun in the kitchen

"WHAT are you like in the kitchen?" asks *MasterChef*'s John Torode at the beginning of our cookery masterclass.

"I'm OK," I grunt, a mental carousel of burnt biscuits, teeth-extracting pork joints and soggy bottoms whirling to mind.

"Did anyone tell you that you had to be brilliant at cooking?" despairs the 50-year-old, with a world-weary sigh.

"People forget that their friends love them. They come around to your house for dinner not because they want you to show off to them. They come round your house for dinner because they love you."

My nearest and dearest might be more inclined to come round for dinner if there was less chance of the usual tortured pasta dishes I foist upon them. And evidently, I'm not the only one to feel coy about my cooking skills (or lack of) because Torode's new cookery tome *My Kind Of Food*, explores just that.

A deeply 'personal' collection of recipes (complete with pictures and cards made by his four children proudly placed alongside the acknowledgements), the emphasis is on getting us back in the kitchen and having some fun there. And if that means using shop-bought condiments, so be it.

"You don't make your own vinegar," he reasons. "You don't make your own honey."

Correct, John. So after starting off with banana bread ("Everybody in Australia has banana bread"), we move swiftly on to Pesto and Tomato Tarts and Pesto and Pods, made with peas.

"Look, here are the escape-peas," says the *MasterChef* judge, pointing at a few rogue frozen peas.

While the tarts are in the oven, the surfaces are wiped down (the Aussie chef is very much a mucker-inner) and the dad-style puns flow. Torode receives an unexpected delivery of flowers to celebrate the launch of his book.

"I know who those are from... my lovely girl," he smiles. A check of the card and a quick phone call confirms they are indeed from Torode's "lovely" girlfriend Lisa Faulkner.

The two met back in 2010 when actress and now cook Faulkner won *Celebrity MasterChef*. After a few years of friendship, they fell in love.

Very much personally unified, the couple like to keep things separate professionally.

"I think the prospect of Lisa and me doing a cookery show together is very slim," says the keen cyclist.

"We'd be very happy, but the fact is we're very different cooks. We have our own lives and that's what good about it."

Recently, Torode had to come to terms with his oldest son, a third-year ecology student, flying the nest to Sydney where he is doing a placement.

"He loves it, absolutely loves it... but I now know how my father felt 25 years ago," he says.



■ **EXPERT:** John Torode launches his new book *My Kind Of Food* at the Central Street Cookery School, London

Picture: Ian West/PA

"But the good thing is, he's been packed off with his Le Creuset pot my father bought him, which he uses to cook for himself, and a fold-away knife which he knows how to keep sharp... and he's done."

That all his brood leave home knowing how to "iron a shirt, buy a bus ticket and cook a couple of bits of food" is something Torode holds dear.

"Good food should be accessible to everybody and that's what I've done with the book," he says. "I'm not after Michelin stars, I'm not after praise in that way, what I really like is when people taste my food and say, 'That's delicious'. And if that word comes out all the time, that's fantastic. I'm really, really happy."

### TOMATO AND PESTO TARTS (Makes four tarts)

500g block puff pastry (all-butter, if possible); plain flour, for dusting; 1 egg, beaten; 2tbsp pesto (home-made or just use a jar); 8 plum tomatoes, sliced; salt and freshly ground black pepper

To serve:

100g watercress, 10ml peppery olive oil  
Heat the oven to 220C/gas 7. Line a baking sheet with baking paper. On a lightly floured worktop,

roll the puff pastry out until it is about 2cm thick. You will need to cut four circular discs from the pastry, so find a small plate or saucer that's about 16cm in diameter to use as a template. Place the plate over the pastry and run a sharp knife around the edge to cut out the first disc. Repeat until you have four. Now you need to lightly score a margin about 1.5-2cm in from the edge of the pastry discs, so find a smaller plate or bowl that you can use as a template. Place the smaller plate in the centre of each pastry disc and lightly run a sharp knife around the edge, being careful not to cut all the way through.

Lift the disks onto a baking sheet and brush with the beaten egg. With a fork, prick the inner circle but not the outer edge - this will stop the pastry from rising in the middle, but will allow the outer edge of the tart to rise up.

Take a good amount of the pesto and spread it over the inner circle of each tart. Place the tops and bottoms of the tomatoes in the centre of the tarts, then start to lay the slices on top of the pesto so they overlap and create a swirl effect - it should look a bit like a Catherine wheel. Season with salt and pepper.

Place the tarts in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes, until well risen and coloured. Mix the watercress with the olive oil and serve with the tarts.



### MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

## Grilled Lamb, merguez and chickpea salad

*Serves four*

I LOVE a merguez sausage - they have just that right amount of spice to them.

It's odd that you don't see them often in supermarkets but, still, good Mediterranean and North African butchers always sell them. I normally buy up a kilo and freeze them on a tray, then pop them into individual bags so I can take out only those I need.

You don't need a big fancy barbecue for this, a decent disposable number will suffice, if necessary.

**4 lamb under fillets (sometimes called pencil fillets)**  
**4-6 merguez sausages**

**A little oil for brushing**

**A handful of coriander leaves, washed and dried**

**A handful of flat parsley leaves, washed and dried**

**A handful of mint leaves, washed**

**120-150g cooked chickpeas, rinsed**

**For the dressing**

**1 small pickled lemon, finely chopped**

**1tbsp white wine vinegar**

**2tbsp olive oil**

**2tbsp vegetable or corn oil**

**Salt and freshly ground black pepper**

PRE-HEAT your barbecue, season the lamb fillets and lightly oil them, cook them on the barbecue with the merguez for three to four minutes, turning them as they cook and keeping the fillets nice and pink.

Meanwhile, mix all of the ingredients together for the dressing and season to taste (this can be done in advance and the dressing saved in a jar).

To serve, cut the fillets into three to four slices on the angle, and the merguez into two to three pieces. Toss all of the ingredients with the dressing and serve in a bowl.



■ **SAVOUR AND ENJOY:** Grilled lamb, merguez and chickpea salad, to a Mark Hix recipe.

## Enjoyable pizzas before a night at the theatre

I WAS lucky to be invited to review the new Pizza Express in Paddington recently, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The restaurant, which opened in August, is in the newly developed Merchant Square and boasts 154 seats plus a waterside dining area.

I went for a pre-theatre meal, so it was early on a rainy Wednesday evening. All Pizza Express restaurants are individually designed and this

one has a very trendy feel to its interior, with exposed concrete and retro hanging lighting. With full glass frontage looking out onto the Merchant Square water feature, the restaurant is light and airy and feels clean and contemporary.

I was the only diner when I arrived and apart from some rather noisy staff members making cups of tea, I was warmly welcomed by all.

I started with olives and

followed with a nicoise pizza, with a thin and crispy Romana base. The nicoise pizza has a regular ragu tomato-based topping, with anchovies, tuna, rocket, capers, olives, mozzarella cheese and hard-boiled egg. The mixture of flavours is divine and the pizza was perfectly cooked. When my companion joined me he chose to eat a classic La Reine pizza but with a thin and crispy Romana base. The La Reine

boasts prosciutto cotto ham, olives, mushrooms, mozzarella and tomato. Again the pizza was perfectly baked and with a beer and a glass of wine, we felt we had enjoyed a good dining experience.

The cost was as follows: La Reine pizza with a Romana base £11.95, Nicoise pizza with a Romana base £12.95, olives marinate £2.85, Merlot £4.55, Peroni Nastro Azzurro £6.85. Total £39.15.



# Talk Of The Town

Music | Theatre | Reviews



■ COLOUR SUPPLEMENT: The fabulous factory ensemble in the stunning Kinky Boots.

Picture by Matt Crocket

## Fabulous feet do talking with music that has heart and sole

Kinky Boots \*\*\*\*\*

**A**FTER a month of pre-views, the new musical *Kinky Boots* opened at the Adelphi Theatre on September 14 – to rapturous adulation, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Theatre critics are rarely in agreement, but on this occasion, I think most will acknowledge this is an absolute triumphant delight.

Based on the 2005 British film of the same title, the story follows Charlie, the son of a shoe factory owner. The Price and Son shoe factory has fallen on difficult times and after his father's sudden death Charlie finds himself taking the reins in a bid to rejuvenate the failing business. In a chance encounter with effervescent drag queen Lola, Charlie sets the factory on a course that will ensure there are jobs for the community for years to come.

Killian Donnelly plays Charlie and shows why he is enjoying great success as one of the most sought-after West End actors of the moment. His portrayal is sensitive yet impassioned, with soaring vocals that have



■ WEAR IT WELL: Matt Henry is Lola, with the Angels, above left. Right: Amy Lennox and Killian Donnelly.



the ability to incite tears and fill you with elation. The stage chemistry between Donnelly and co-star Matt Henry is electric, and when joined by both the factory ensemble and the Angels makes for a high tempo fiesta of fun.

This show offers everything you could want from an evening at the theatre – with some top comedy input from Amy Lennox as Lauren and truly rousing dance numbers. The close of act one, *Everybody Say Yeah*, is absolutely breathtaking and

showcases the wonderful choreography by Jerry Mitchell.

Matt Henry is quite simply glorious as Lola and puts in the performance of a lifetime as the drag queen-cum-shoe designer who, with echoes of Billy Elliot, has always wished for his father's approval. The gorgeous *Not My Father's Son*, performed with Donnelly, is a real highlight and is just one of the songs from this exceptionally memorable score which I have found myself singing since.

*Kinky Boots* enjoyed huge success on Broadway, winning six Tonys, including Best Musical and Best Score for writer Cyndi Lauper, who attended the dazzling press night along with writing partner and Broadway big shot Harvey Fierstein. The pair will surely be in line for more accolades after the response to this West End opening.

Rarely have I left a theatre so full of joy. This funny, touching and truthful musical is a must-see theatrical event!

## Riviera racket will entertain

FOLLOWING a successful run at the Savoy Hotel last year, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is enjoying more adulation as it tours the UK and will soon be wowing audiences at The New Wimbledon theatre, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Based on the classic comedy film starring Sir Michael Caine and Steve Martin, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is set on the French Riviera where two seasoned swindlers attempt to hoodwink a millionaire heiress.

Musical theatre stalwart Gary Wilmot has reprised his role in the show, which also stars former Robin Hood Michael Praed. Gary called me from his dressing room in Edinburgh to talk to me about the musical.

"I play a character called Andre, the chief of police who gives information to a man called Lawrence who's a con man in the area. Of course he gets a bit of a kick back from that as well but he thinks, why not? They're a bit of a duo really but then comes along Freddy, who is a young up start who encourages Lawrence to teach him the ways of the con and they get themselves into all sorts of trouble."

With an illustrious stage and television career behind him, Wilmot never seems to be far from a stage, having played leading roles in iconic musicals such as *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Copacabana* and has recently completed a tour of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *Oklahoma*, playing the charming peddler Ali Hakim. Gary also played Andre in the West End production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, alongside Robert Lindsay and Bonnie Langford – and tells me about why he's so pleased to be back, this time sharing the stage with Praed.

"Michael Praed's the suavest man I know! It's the funniest show I've seen in a long time and I mean really laugh-out-loud funny. It's a great story with lots of twists and we've got a fantastic creative team."

The team behind *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* are currently enjoying great success in the West End with *Kinky Boots* and both shows boast dazzling choreography by the multi award-winning Jerry Mitchell.

*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* will be at the New Wimbledon Theatre from October 20 to 24. For more details have a look at the website [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com)



■ RIVIERA ROGUES: The Dirty Rotten Scoundrels line-up, including Gary Wilmot, right, and Michael Praed, left.



# Talk Of The Town

## london Listings

### Frieze Arts Fair, Regent's Park

October 14 to 17

Established in 2003 by the founders of frieze magazine, Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, Frieze London is one of the world's leading art fairs and takes place each October in Regent's Park, London. Frieze London 2015 will feature two curated gallery sections, Live and Focus, plus the annual Frieze Projects programme curated by Nicola Lees. In 2012 Frieze established two further art fairs, Frieze New York, which takes place on Randall's Island, Manhattan each May, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern. Tickets hotline 0871 230 3452

### RHS London Harvest Festival Show

October 6 and 7

The show is held in the RHS Lindley Halls, between 10am-9pm (6 October) and 10am-5pm (7 October). RHS London Harvest Late is on between 6pm-9pm (6 October). See, taste and buy mouth-watering produce at the RHS London Harvest Festival Show, a foodie feast celebrating the taste of autumn. The show is the perfect place to get ideas and inspiration on late summer gardening and growing fruit and vegetables. This year the show will return to the traditional harvest theme. To book tickets, visit [rhs.org.uk/shows](http://rhs.org.uk/shows) or call 0844 338 7502

### Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7

David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. [www.importanceofearnest.com](http://www.importanceofearnest.com)

### Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium

To October 10th

The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital's most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer's family, marks the centenary of Sinatra's birth and features his greatest hits including Fly Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way.

### Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre

To October 31

Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive 12-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

### The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern

Until January 24, 2016

Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel, Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe.

In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex.

Moving on, you'll find the mimicry of media and the language of mass production, the repetition of advertising strategies and consumerist logos, the appropriation of icons from popular culture, the re-evaluation of the role of women and the subversion of political symbolism. It makes for a riveting, eye-opening group exhibition that re-educates us on a movement that really reached out to embrace us – and continues to do so.

The Brazilian military dictatorship of the 1960s is confronted in Marcello Nitsche's giant flyswatter, ready and waiting to squish the tyrannical regime. Pop stars from western magazines are reimagined as the friends of Romanian artist Cornel Brudășcu in his exquisite paintings. Basically everywhere you turn, the work is assessing the social, cultural and political terrain in which it was created. Women artists have been most notably omitted from the canon of pop art, so it's reassuring that the two female curators have made sure to rebalance the status quo. Naked women become domestic white goods in Martha Rosler's brilliantly critical photomontages.

### London Literature Festival

To October 12th

Feeling curious? Journey into the unexpected this autumn. Stories are vessels which take us into the uncharted waters of other lives and minds and worlds, changing us along the way. We come to literature so it can tell us something we don't already know. This year's London Literature Festival embraces the spirit of adventure and welcomes you to explore the world through words. There's everything from dramatic mass readings and playful debates to literary cocktail hours, one-off commissions and a Young Adult literature mini festival. Festival highlights include the world premiere of a collaborative book by PJ Harvey and Seamus Murphy, an immersive, multimedia journey through Terry Gilliam's imagination, and a spectacular four-day performed reading of Herman Melville's Moby-Dick.



■ CONVINCING TAKE-OFF: Caroline Reid is Pam Ann.

## Sky's the limit for in-flight showgirl

PAM Ann, dubbed "the world's favourite international air hostess and Queen of the Sky", is back in the UK with a brand new show.

Jet-setting in direct from sell-out tours in Europe, Pam Ann will be touching down at one of her favourite airports, London Heathrow and embarking on an extensive UK tour which kicks off with a six-week run at London's Leicester Square Theatre from September 30.

The Queen of the Sky says she can't promise that this plane won't go missing over the Indian Ocean or shut down the internet in North Korea but she can guarantee it will be a turbulent flight.

The show's promoters say: "Ever wondered what it would feel like to be hijacked and verbally abused by an international air hostess? Well, this show is for you! Pam Ann is back and she means business (class)."

"Hilarious, often shocking and totally politically incorrect, Pam Ann keeps things lively and nail biting unpredictable

as she takes off her pristine white gloves and delivers an unrelenting barrage of shoot-from-the-lip observations."

Adored by some cabin crew and frequent flyers around the world, Pam Ann's ability to both rile, offend and charm her audiences has helped her keep flying high. She is like Marmite – you either love or hate her. She's developed a cult-like international following and counts Elton John, Cher and Madonna (who describes Pam Ann as "cruelly funny") among her.

Pam Ann is the comic creation of writer and comedian Caroline Reid. Together they tend to sell out every stage they hit, from New York's Public Theatre and San Francisco's Castro to Sydney's State Theatre, Melbourne's Princess Theatre, Paris's Alhambra Theatre, Berlin's Admiralspalast and London's Hammersmith Apollo to name a few. In the UK, Pam Ann was the fourth best-selling female comedian of 2014, wedged between Dawn French

and her long time inspiration Joan Rivers. In Australia, Pam Ann starred on her own television talk show, *The Pam Ann Show*, on Foxtel and has hosted the national live broadcast of Mardi Gras.

Among her greatest hits are an advertising campaign and training videos for British Airways, the inclusion of her live DVD, *Come Fly With Me*, on Qantas' in-flight programming, being the face of London's Heathrow SkyTeam Terminal 4 for the fifth year running and being awarded the Icon Award by New York's *Get Out* magazine.

She is exploiting her creation to the maximum – also working on a Hollywood Pam Ann movie, a TV Pam Ann sitcom and a Pam Ann book due out later this year.

*Queen of the Sky* will feature brand new videos created by long time collaborator film maker Sam Harvey, music by DJ Wayne G and costumes created by New York designer Garo Sparo.



VUE cinemas in London will screen Ed Sheeran's new concert film – *Jumpers for Goalposts* – on October 22 alongside a special live performance direct from the premiere in London's Leicester Square.

The documentary film follows the star's road to three breath-taking summer concerts at Wembley Stadium and the incredible live gig will take place before Ed

himself, *pictured*, introduces the film. Also, thanks to Vue's innovative approach to big screen technology and its partnership with the National Theatre and Sony Digital Cinema 4K, fans around the country will get a chance to watch the hit stage production of *Hamlet*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch at Vue cinemas in London and be guaranteed the best seat in the house.

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# Talk Of The Town



■ **IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME:** Nicole Kidman returns to the West End stage in Photograph 51



■ **UNDER PRESSURE:** Nicole Kidman plays scientist Rosalind Franklin, a woman in a 1950s man's world, in a race to discover the structure of DNA

## Kidman is back on the London stage

THE stars were out in force for the grand opening of a new play which marked Nicole Kidman's celebrated return to the West End stage.

The academy award winning actress is starring in Michael Grandage's production of Photograph 51, a play which charts the race to be the first scientist to discover the structure of DNA.

The new play, written by Anna Ziegler, is a powerful insight into the world of science and illustrates the struggle a woman in the 1950s had to face in the field.

Alongside the Hollywood legend, the play boasts an excellent all male supporting cast, which includes Edward Bennett as Nobel prize winner Francis Crick. I was lucky enough to be able to talk to Edward about the play and he told me about his co-stars.

"The quality across the board is genuinely special and very inspiring, particularly with someone like Nicole Kidman who obviously has the greatest credentials as a film actor.

"What's lovely with Michael Grandage and Nicole herself is that there's no sense that this is a vehicle or a star show. The nature of the play and the nature of theatre is that it's such a great leveller that you can't just rely on one aspect of it. Nicole Kidman is absolutely brilliant, really kind and has been really lovely to us."



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**  
LWN Theatre Critic

Kidman plays Rosalind Franklin, a brilliant X-ray crystallographer who makes an image which shows two DNA strands spiralling around a centre. The photograph leads to the discovery of the famed double helix structure. Franklin's self-doubt and reticence to collaborate on her work lead to her rivals Crick and Watson stealing in and taking the glory.

It's easy to see why Kidman is one of the most famous and acclaimed actresses in the world. Her absolute conviction in the complex role is quite unparalleled and her sensitive and yet weighty portrayal of Franklin's demise due to cancer is really very moving.

There are elements of the plot which have been added, including a love interest between Franklin and American scientist Don Casper, played by Patrick Kennedy, which for me was a nice

twist and helped to lighten the otherwise heavily science weighted script.

Edward explains: "I think what Anna Ziegler's done brilliantly in 90 minutes is to not only create the world, or various worlds at points of history within the narrative, she's also created a beautifully human story.

"With a bit of artistic licence she's been able to create these really well-rounded characters who all have an interaction in some way and at some point within the story.

"She's created something which could be a very episodic kind of documentary story into something that is deeply human and can connect with anyone who comes to see it."

There is a lot of scientific jargon interwoven into the dialogue which, as I find the subject fascinating was not a problem, but for some may become a little baffling. I asked Edward if he had any trouble with the more perplexing terminology.

"We had professor Brian Sutton from Kings College come to talk to us," he said. "He explained it in a more simplified fashion, more layman's terms and we sort of cottoned on to it."

● **Photograph 51 continues at the Noel Coward Theatre until November 21st with £10 day seats available from the box office from 10:30am.**



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To obtain an application pack please email  
[businessmanager@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:businessmanager@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk)  
or phone 020 7525 9033

Closing date for applications:  
**Monday 5th October 2015**



## City of London Academy (Southwark)

The City of London Academy (Southwark) is a vibrant and innovative secondary school in the heart of Bermondsey in South London. Sponsored by the City of London Corporation, the Academy provides a broad, high quality education with an added focus on Business & Enterprise and Sport to students aged 11-18 years old.

We are looking to recruit for the following support roles:

### Management Information Systems (MIS) Deputy Manager/Exams Officer

£27,547 - £31,120, 35 hours per week, 52 weeks per year

We are seeking an enthusiastic and committed individual to manage the Academy's examinations and data processes and provide support to the Leadership team in preparing and analysing student performance data. You will also assist the MIS Manager in the delivery and management of MIS services to the Academy.

### Senior ICT Technician

£27,547 - £31,120, 35 hours per week, 52 weeks per year

The ideal candidate will provide 3rd line technical support to ensure staff and students can use the academy's ICT network, facilities and infrastructure to its full potential. You will hold a recognised computer or network qualification at NVQ level 4 or equivalent experience.

### Progress Leader/Year Assistant

£18,535 - £21,229, 37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year

We are seeking a proactive individual to join our Year team in providing support and guidance to our students to overcome barriers to learning, whilst promoting the very highest standards of behaviour and self-respect. You will be confident, self-motivated, a team player and be flexible to adapt to changing workload demands and new school challenges.

### Lunchtime Supervisors

£4,539 per annum, Part-time, Term-time only, Fixed term contract

We are looking to appoint Lunchtime Supervisors who will work together with other staff members to provide lunchtime supervision for students. The successful candidates will be responsible for ensuring the safety, welfare and positive behaviour of students during change over and lunch break periods. You will ideally have previous experience of working with children.

### Kitchen Porters and General Assistant

Part-time, Term-time only

We require two Kitchen Porters and one General Assistant to join our Catering team. The roles will be based in our busy Academy kitchen and you will be expected to deliver excellent customer service to all.

To apply and view more details of the posts, please go to:  
[www.cityacademy.co.uk/work](http://www.cityacademy.co.uk/work) for us.

Closing date for all posts: 12 noon on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

All applications must be made on the Academy application form. CVs will not be accepted. Completed applications can be emailed to [recruitment@cityacademy.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@cityacademy.co.uk).

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers.

## Working for Wandsworth

### OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2015 • 5.00 P.M. - 8.00 P.M. FROGMORE COMPLEX, FROGMORE, SW18 1EY

We are holding an Open Evening on 29 September to recruit the following posts - why not come along and see what we can offer?

Closing date for all posts: 4th October 2015

<b>Assistant Supervisor (Works)</b> £21,906 - £24,312 per annum PLUS PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002128	<b>Mason Pavior</b> £17,847 - £18,513 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002133
<b>HGV Service Drivers</b> (Class C & E LICENCE REQUIRED) £16,755 to £17,827 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002129	<b>Labourer</b> £16,176 - £17,547 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002134
<b>Traffic Fitter</b> £18,306 - £20,388 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002130	<b>Gully Machine Operator</b> £16,755 - £17,847 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002135
<b>Trainee Traffic Fitter/Sign maker</b> £14,070 - £15,642 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002131	<b>Stores Assistant</b> £18,513 - £20,955 per annum PLUS PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002136
<b>Sign Maker</b> £20,955 - £23,640 per annum PLUS PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002132	<b>Multi-traders (Building Maintenance)</b> £22,410 - £25,725 per annum PLUS BONUS SCHEME & PROFIT SHARE	REF: R002137

You can view and download the post information, and apply for any of these jobs by visiting the council's website [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs)

For an informal discussion please contact Hugh Walsh, Highways and Works Manager, on 020 8871 6719 or email at [hwash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:hwash@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Alternatively you can collect an application pack in person at the Open Evening.

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We are keen to encourage disabled people, women and black and minority ethnic candidates to apply for senior posts in which they are under-represented.



visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs)

"The school is a highly inclusive community. A positive ethos permeates all aspects of the school's work. Parents are highly supportive of the school and correctly believe that students are well taught. Outstanding leadership inspires staff and students to do their very best." OFSTED NOVEMBER 2013



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Previous experience in a similar role is desirable, but not essential.

Further information, an application form and job description are available from our website [www.the-elmgreen-school.org.uk](http://www.the-elmgreen-school.org.uk) or by emailing [recruitment@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk)  
Closing date for applications is midday, Friday 9 October 2015.

No CVs or agencies please.

In line with our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students, appointment will be subject to DBS check and satisfactory references.

Lambeth is an equal opportunities employer.





Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at [sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

# Austin injury is biggest fear

**A**S if getting hammered 4-0 by your local rivals is not bad enough, the loss of their top player could be a much bigger long-term blow to Queens Park Rangers.

Austin limped off clutching his left hamstring after tumbling to the ground while chasing a ball to the byline in Friday night's abysmal defeat at Fulham.

That was no excuse for the scale of the defeat, though. R's were already three down when injury to their No.9 in the 59th minute compounded a miserable night in SW6. Jamie Mackie is also looking at a spell on the sidelines after he, too, suffered a hamstring injury.

QPR head coach Chris

Ramsey said: "We know we've let the fans down. We didn't compete as we should have done. Fulham got amongst us very early and their tails were up. We couldn't get close to them. We haven't done ourselves justice this evening."

## Kept behind

Ramsey kept his players behind in the dressing room at length after the final whistle.

"Doors have been locked, we've been in there together," he said. "This is the time when we need to stick together. We have to



## LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald



**■ CHARLIE Austin looking down and out**  
Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South Digital South

start rebuilding straight away."

Ramsey might have had words with Tjarron Chery, who was substituted after just 35 minutes as Fulham took complete control of a one-sided game. Sky TV cameras captured Chery smiling at QPR fans behind the goal at the Putney end and giving them the thumbs-up signal after leaving the field.

Instead of sitting in the visiting dug-out, he made his way round the pitch to the dressing rooms in the far corner of the ground. He wasn't exactly radiating the kind of disappointment expected of a player withdrawn so early in the piece and with his team on the wrong end of a whipping, although judging by the warm reception he received from the 4,000 away fans, they disagreed with Ramsey's decision to replace the Dutchman.

In fairness to Chery, he wasn't directly to blame for any of the goals in an all-round lamentable away performance.

At least Ramsey didn't attempt to trot

out the usual psychobabble we are routinely fed by managers whose team has just been put to the sword. He wasn't 'looking for positives.' He couldn't. Because there were none.

The only crumbs of comfort were the return of Leroy Fer, who came off the bench to replace Mackie at half-time, and the fact that R's didn't quite capitulate to the extent of the 6-0 slaughter suffered by Neil Warnock's Rangers the last time they were at Fulham.

Ramsey will have had eight days between the Fulham fiasco and this Saturday's home game against Bolton Wanderers to try and steady the ship and get back to winning ways.

QPR fans must hope that the players in blue and white hoops have taken a long, hard look at themselves in the mirror and decided they really are up for the fight.

Supporters will also be praying that Austin's injury doesn't keep the Championship's leading scorer out for too long.

## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

**Saturday, October 3**  
QPR v Bolton Wanderers, 3.00  
CHELSEA v Southampton, 5.30  
**Sunday, October 4**  
Charlton Athletic v FULHAM, 12.00

**■ SURREY swiftly cast aside the disappointment of losing the Royal London One-Day Cup final by winning the LV = County Championship second division.**

Despite only drawing their final match of the season against Northants, the Brown Caps finished 10 points clear of Lancashire.

Brothers Tom and Sam Curran combined to bowl Northants out for just 110 as Surrey took control at The Kia Oval. Tom took 7-35 and Sam 3-46 as the visitors were forced to follow-on after being dismissed in 29.5 overs.

Tom and Sam are the first brothers to share all 10 wickets in an innings since W.G. and E.M. Grace bowled Surrey out for Gloucestershire at The Oval in 1871.

It was a day of double celebration for Sam, who was selected for the England Under-19 squad for a tri-series in Sri Lanka in December.

For Tom, his first-innings figures were his second seven-wicket haul in first-class cricket.

"These guys can be around for a very long time and hopefully the trophy cabinet will be brimming in the coming years," enthused skipper Gareth Batty. "It will be tough (in Division One) but the group is moving forward quickly."

Six of the Surrey team that secured a first piece of silverware since winning the CB40 competition in 2011 – the Curran brothers, Matt Dunn, Jason Roy, Ben Foakes and Rory Burns – are 25 or under.

Batty paid tribute to the role the coaching staff has played in their development, led by director of cricket Alec Stewart and head coach Graham Ford.

He added: "The coaching structure is perfect. You can see the young players, and older ones, are thriving. It's a wonderful environment and a credit to all those people."

**■ BATSMAN Jason Roy has signed a new three-year deal with Surrey. The 25-year-old has scored over 1,400 runs in all competitions this year, including two centuries apiece in the Championship and the One-Day Cup.**

Roy also made his One Day International debut for England this summer.

**■ MIDDLESEX will relish renewing their rivalry with Surrey next summer and, like their near neighbours, can be pleased with their overall record in 2015.**

Only Yorkshire, unanimously regarded as the premier force in English county cricket, finished ahead of Middlesex in the final County Championship first division table.

**TONY Bryant bagged a brace of tries as Hammersmith & Fulham swept to an impressive 28-10 away win against Tabard on Saturday.**

The visitors came flying out the blocks, playing fast and wide from the off, shifting Tabard's heavy pack around the field. Hammers managed to dot down three times before half-time and saw out the second-half with some dogged tackling and strong set-pieces.

Head coach Dave Mannion said: "Tabard will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season, so a bonus-point away win is a decent result for us. We left a few tries out there on the field, though, which is disappointing, but we'll take that result."



## LOCAL RUGBY UNION

Strong running from Tony Rees and Charlie Precious in the opening quarter saw Hammers win good field position before kicking a penalty to touch on Tabard's five metre line. Hammers rumbled over with number eight Josh Pettitt touching down.

Minutes later Hammers cut loose from a stolen lineout and, with Tabard's defence scrambling to recover, Bryant cut the line with ease before stepping the fullback. The home side just couldn't catch a break and when Tabard tried to kick their way out of their own half, flanker Cam Ogle charged down a clearance kick and got a hand to the spilled ball for another try.

Tabard did well to stop the floodgates from opening and tightened the game up with some strong defence. A misguided Bryant chip from his own 22 saw the opposition fullback steal the ball mid-air and canter in under the posts to end the first half 21-10.

After a turgid half-hour in which neither side could make any meaningful impression on the other, Bryant scampered under the posts from a well-executed training park move to win an important away bonus point.

Hammers take on league newcomers Woodford at Hurlingham Park on Saturday.



# Surrey are champions



**■ ROY JOY: Jason Roy has signed a new contract**  
Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South Digital South

Middlesex secured the runners-up spot after Notts failed to beat Hampshire at Trent Bridge last week. It is Middlesex's highest placed County Championship finish since they were pipped to the title by Warwickshire in 1995.

Seven wins, seven draws and only two losses this term saw Middlesex finish the season on 218 points, the club's highest Division One points tally since two divisions were introduced into the County Championship back in 2000.



# SPORT

Thursday, October 1st, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

## Blues search for fast start

**G**ARY Cahill just hates playing at Newcastle and is equally frustrated at Chelsea's poor start to the season that could leave the Premier League champions out of the title race after just seven matches.

Blues showed great spirit to come back from 2-0 down at St James' Park on Saturday to earn a point, thanks to substitutes Ramires and Willian, but with eight points they lie in 15th place – eight points behind new leaders Manchester United.

"I was happy with the second-half," said the England centre-back. "The first-half was obviously disappointing. It was not just how we conceded the first goal, but the way we started the game. We gave them a lot of confidence, we let them come at us and play and cause us some problems.

"The second-half was completely different. Obviously, we needed to be on the front foot after going a goal down. We showed a good response and the subs had a massive impact. As mad as it sounds,

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**  
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

we were looking at coming away with all three points in the end.

"So we will take a point from that situation but we can't start like that again."

Cahill, 29, can't put his finger on why the champions struggle at the beginning of matches.

"I don't know," he said. "Flipping every time I come to this stadium. We haven't had the best of luck here. Newcastle hasn't really got anything to do with it. It's on the day and we just weren't good enough in the first-half."

### Refused to blame

The England vice-captain refused to blame individuals for the goals conceded, especially the first when Kurt Zouma and Branislav Ivanovic lost the flight of the ball, allowing Ayoze Perez to nip in between them and shoot past Asmir Begovic.



● GARY Cahill hopes to soon be able to discard his protective mask Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



## This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

"Like I said, on our behalf it was a poor goal. I haven't seen it again, so I don't want to comment to say what's wrong with it.

"It wasn't just the goals we let in, it was how we went about it. Our performance just wasn't good enough. The second-half was totally different. We camped in their half and probably got what we deserved. But we need to start the game with the same attitude and frame of mind. If we had that from the start, we would have won at Newcastle."

Is there a lack of confidence among players at the beginning of games?

"There shouldn't be, because we'd had good wins in the Champions League (against Maccabi Tel Aviv) and against Arsenal in the league. And in midweek, we'd won 4-1 in the Capital One Cup at Walsall, so we were building momentum. Against Newcastle, we had to take at least a point – but had we lost, it would have been a massive blow to us."

LWN Sport went to press before Tuesday's Champions League match in Portugal against Porto but Cahill knows that Chelsea cannot afford to slip up again this season, and is aware they need to grab all

three league points at home to Southampton on Saturday evening.

"I feel we have given up a lot of our lifelines now," he admitted. "Had we lost at Newcastle, then who knows? Man City slipped up again (losing 4-1 at Tottenham) and it was time for us to capitalise on that but we didn't quite do that.

"That's why we left St James' Park disappointed. No disrespect to Newcastle, they are fighting for their lives. We knew that the atmosphere would be big and they got the fans on their side when they went a goal up, which was not great for us."

But Cahill remains optimistic that the slump is over and the quality of Chelsea's squad will see them race up the Premier League table.

"We have to take positives from the second-half at Newcastle," he said. "Had we played five or 10 minutes longer we possibly would have won the game. We did not feel sorry for ourselves, we made it happen.

"He (Tim Krul) pulled off a great save from a (Ramires) header, and also Pedro was through and had a great chance. We had opportunities to win the game.

"But give them credit. They played well in the first-half, we played well second-half. A draw was probably a fair result."

On a personal level, Cahill has been playing with a facemask to protect a nose that was broken in the 3-0 defeat at Manchester City on August 16 – and he can't wait to discard the irritating device.

### The mask

"I hope it come off sooner rather than later," he said. "I think I'll have a scan next week and if the nose has healed, hopefully I'll get rid of the mask. So maybe in one or two more games from now I won't need to be wearing it."

All Cahill has to do is perform well on the pitch. For manager Jose Mourinho, he has the more difficult task of trying to identify what's going wrong, turn the ship around and win games – all at the same time.

"I feel a bit disappointed with the point and that we did not win," said Mourinho.

"A win is a win and a loss is a loss. It's a sense of extremes – a positive one and a negative one. A draw, well it depends on the team and the objectives. But normally I am not happy with a point.

"For sure, we have had some bad performances. I have played so many matches with Chelsea over seven years. In that time we have had some bad performances. I remember one at Middlesbrough, when we were losing 3-0 at half-time.

"Against Newcastle, I can put it in that category as one of the worst. It was down to awful individual performances. When you have so many bad individual performances it's impossible for a team to be a team.

● Continued on page 27



## Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

## Fulham earned bragging rights

**F**ULHAM boss Kit Symons agreed. Friday night's 4-0 thrashing of Queens Park Rangers in the west London derby was the best result and performance of his tenure.

"It's the most pleasing one, what with it being a local derby as well," smiled Symons.

Whites didn't just beat QPR, they annihilated them, out-playing the R's in every department to win with embarrassing ease.

A goal inside two minutes from Moussa Dembélé, a second from Ben Pringle and then skipper Ross McCormack made it 3-0 inside barely the first half-an-hour.

The visitors were not allowed to play themselves back into the game and lacked any fight. McCormack extended Fulham's lead just after the hour mark, to take his season's tally to six, and R's were dispatched back to W12 with their tails well and truly between

their legs. They couldn't have complained had they got thumped 6-0 – the same score they were hammered by on their last visit to Craven Cottage.

"It was a massive night for everyone connected with the football club," continued Symons. "It's a huge thing and I wanted to make sure we had the bragging rights come tomorrow morning. Fulham fans will be crowing after that one, and rightly so.

"We didn't get what I felt we deserved from the first few games but if you keep doing the right things, you'll end up getting what you deserve.

"It's not that long ago it was 'Symons out' while walking off after Huddersfield. We were still doing the right things then and we've continued to do that. I've got a really strong belief in the way we work.

"I've got total faith in the players

as a group and the way we've done our recruitment, I think it's been excellent. It was just waiting for it to click and for everything to fall into place, and it did tonight.

"We need to kick on from this now and it will give us great confidence, without a doubt. We need to make sure this sort of performance becomes the norm and we can really start moving up the table."

Never mind the not unexpected midweek 1-0 home defeat by Stoke City in the Capital One Cup, against feeble Rangers Fulham maintained their momentum of scoring in all eight Championship games this season. But to underline a brilliant all-round team performance, they finally managed to keep a clean sheet in the league for the first time this campaign.

Central defenders Tim Ream and Richard Stearman didn't give Charlie Austin even a sniff of goal

before the QPR talisman went off injured, while full-backs Ryan Fredericks and James Husband not only did their defensive duties well, they were a threat going forward as well.

"We've got really good individual players but we're a really good team, which is what I'm most pleased about," Symons continued. "That, and the fact that we got a clean sheet. Those two things delighted me."

LWN Sport went to press before Tuesday's home league game against Wolves but Whites will hope to follow up their impressive performance against QPR in the London derby at Charlton this Sunday lunch-time. The Addicks are on an awful run of four defeats and a draw in their last five matches, so Fulham must go to The Valley looking to secure all three points and continue to push towards the play-off places.